Gov't lawyers ask Sandigan: Arrest Imelda

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2001 ★ 74 PAGES 7 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 307 ₱15

Hotlines vs gossip

HELLO... TOTOO BA ANG TSISMIS?
GRABE!
RINGGG!
RINGGG!

By Martin P. Marfil

DON'T look now, but the government may have found a way to counter the people's penchant for spreading rumors. Turn gossips into phone pals.

Saying the country was one big rumor mill,

HOTLINES/ A16

IN *Saturday*SPECIAL

- Denzel Washington has a blast in 'Training Day'
- Tessie Tomas counts her blessings
- Madonna and husband plan movie together

WASHINGTON

WALK TO FREEDOM: Hostages Michael Abellon, Zaldy Benasing and Bersan Benasing walk hand in hand following their escape from their Abu Sayyaf captors. VAL HANDUMON

US Pacific chief coming as adviser

By Julie Alipala-Inot and Juliet L. Javellana

ISABELA CITY—Adm. Dennis Blair, commander in chief of the US Pacific Command, will be among the US military experts expected to visit the country as part of anti-terrorism efforts, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva said yesterday.

Villanueva said the US team would "evaluate and find out how they can further assist us in training as well as in the infusion of matériel and equipment" to allow the Philippines to "really participate" in fighting terrorism, particularly the Abu Sayyaf.

He said he expected the US team to arrive two weeks from now, or even earlier. "But they will not be armed, they will not be participating in the operations, they will not even be advising our troops, as said in the newspapers," he said.

In Manila, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the US experts, accompanied by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, could make aerial inspections to familiarize themselves with the terrain where suspected terrorists were operating.

Golez said the counter-terrorism team would bring night-visibility equipment, "special ammunition," and other equipment that the Philippine military would need to conduct "high-risk, close-in" nighttime operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said at her weekly press conference that the US team would be composed of 16 senior military officers.

"They will be coming here . . . to (coordinate) with our own senior (military) officers, and the output of their coordination will be a plan on how to work together against terrorism," she said.

The President emphasized that the US officers would have no part in "actual physical engagement" with the Abu Sayyaf or other terrorist groups.

"They are senior officers, not foot soldiers," she said.

Villanueva said the US team would fly to Basilan and stay there "for about a week."

US/ A17

4 'Arabs' seen with Abu Sayyaf in Basilan

By Arlyn dela Cruz
Contributor

FOUR foreigners who appear to be of Middle Eastern origin were spotted with Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani in the vicinity of Lantawan, Basilan, according to a military intelligence report.

The sighting was also confirmed by the three Filipino hostages who escaped yesterday from the bandit group.

The report said the four foreigners entered the country through the backdoor, from Malaysia. Their first stop was Sulu, where they reportedly met with Commander Radhulan Sahiron, one of the senior leaders of the Abu Sayyaf.

4 ARABS/ A16

Sobero confirmed dead; 3 more hostages escape

By Dona Pazzibugan
and Julie Alipala-Inot

THE UNITED States Embassy yesterday announced that the remains found on Basilan island last week were those of the Abu Sayyaf's American hostage Guillermo Sobero.

The announcement came as three more Filipino hostages escaped from the Abu Sayyaf bandit group, leaving behind 14 captives including an American couple.

"The results of forensic testing by the US Army Central Identification Laboratory in Honolulu, Hawaii, confirmed that the remains recovered on Basilan by Philippine military authorities last week were those of Mr. Sobero," an embassy statement said.

The remains of Sobero, a Peru-born Californian, were found when a captured member of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group led soldiers to the area where the bandits said they beheaded him in early June.

Sobero, two other Americans

SOBERO/ A16

WAR without borders

Bush gives Taliban second chance

Fat chance, says defiant Bin Laden protector

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush offered Afghanistan's Taliban rulers one last chance to surrender Saudi-born militant Osama bin Laden and avoid destruction while the Afghan capital Kabul was reeling from a fifth straight night of US-led bombing.

At a White House news conference a month after suicide squads slammed hijacked planes into New York and Washington, Bush said the Taliban could stop the military offensive being directed against them if they obeyed his ultimatum.

"If you cough him up and his people today we'll reconsider what we're doing to your country. You still have a second chance. Just bring him in and bring his leaders and lieutenants and other thugs and criminals with him," Bush said.

The leader of the Taliban said Bin Laden could not be handed over to the United States because it was against Afghan principles and religion.

"Afghan principles and religion prevent surrendering Bin Laden," Mullah Mohammad Omar was quoted as saying by the London-based Asharq al-Awsat newspaper in extracts from a full text of an interview to be published Saturday in a sister magazine.

"The man fought jihad (holy war) against the Soviets with us and spent his money on that and so did our other Muslim guests. So, all of them have the right to our hospitality as long as they are complying with our rules," Omar told Al Majalla magazine.

It was not clear when the Taliban's reclusive supreme leader gave the interview.

As Bush spoke, US warplanes continued to pound targets in Afghanistan.

"We have ruined terrorist training camps, disrupted their communications, weakened

BUSH/ A16

UN'S KOFI ANNAN: "For a better organized and more peaceful world." AP

Thailand joins Asean network against terror

By Juliet L. Javellana

VISITING Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has agreed to join the anti-terrorism network proposed by the Philippines to members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Thaksin, here on a two-day official visit, met yesterday with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang, and the two leaders later announced that they had agreed to join hands in fighting terrorism and to assert strong support for the US-led campaign.

In a joint press conference with Thaksin, the President said she had asked Thailand to join the agreement that Asean members "enhance cooperative activities to fight international terrorism."

"I thank His Excellency for accepting to be an active member of this agreement," she said.

Thaksin said he and the President had a lengthy discussion on how to fight international crimes and terrorism.

"We particularly share the view that acts of terrorism have to be

THAILAND/ A5

SHAKING HANDS for the Asean network against terrorism, President Macapagal and Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra share a light moment at the reception hall of Malacañang Palace. EDWIN BACASMAS

THE HOME FRONT

Business as usual for Pinoy workers

By Jerry Esplanada

"IT'S BUSINESS as usual."

The deployment of Filipino workers to the Middle East and other parts of the world is continuing at the same pace, said Rosalinda Baldoz, head of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

"There are no hold orders, no temporary ban on the deployment of land- and sea-based Filipino workers abroad. We continue to process job contracts. There is no reason for our overseas contract workers to worry," Baldoz told the INQUIRER.

But presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao assured the public that "Oplan Aquila," the emergency evacuation plan for Filipino contract workers in the Middle East, was in place and could be activated whenever necessary.

Baldoz, a former labor undersecretary, explained that "before the (Afghanistan) crisis, the POEA processed an average of 2,000 job contracts a day. Today, about 2,300 contracts are being processed by the agency each day."

Not a single Filipino worker was deployed to Afghanistan in the first nine months of the year, POEA records showed. In 1999 and 2000, however, the POEA processed 17 job contracts for Kabul-bound Filipino workers.

Baldoz emphasized that "there is no significant decline (in the processing of job contracts for overseas Filipino workers) that shows the crisis already has an adverse impact on the deployment of Filipino workers overseas."

"At this point, there is no reason for our OFWs based in

BUSINESS/ A17

In time of war, peacemakers win Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO, Norway—For "their work for a better organized and more peaceful world," the United Nations and its secretary general, Kofi Annan, were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee said the United Nations and Annan would equally share the prize, which is worth 10 million Swedish crowns ($946,200).

The committee cited the United Nations for being at the forefront of efforts to achieve peace and security in the world, and the 63-year-old Annan, who has devoted almost his entire working life to the world body, for "bringing new life to the organization."

The announcement comes a month after the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States and almost a week into the US-led air strikes on Afghanistan.

Nobel Committee secretary Geir Lundestad declined to comment specifically on the conflict but said the award "could be interpreted as a

IN TIME/ A5

HINDI PA LIGTAS SI MIKE

Second FRONT PAGE

Imelda arrest sought

By Blanche S. Rivera and Donna S. Cueto

GOVERNMENT lawyers yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan to order the arrest of Imelda Marcos, the widow of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, in connection with criminal charges stemming from the fabled Marcos wealth that she and her family had allegedly accumulated illegally.

The Special Prosecutor's office yesterday submitted to the anti-graft court "documentary evidence" on four graft cases that had been filed in 1995 involving Marcos ill-gotten funds placed in three Swiss dummy foundations and in Banque Paribas.

Special Prosecutor Jacqueline Ongpauco-Cortes said that with the submission of evidence, the government was again asking the court's 4th Division to issue a warrant for Imelda's arrest.

Yesterday, the Presidential Commission on Good Government, the special agency tasked with the recovery of the Marcos ill-gotten wealth, said it would be assisting the Special Prosecutor in seeking the arrest warrant against Imelda who has evaded trial since her late husband's ouster in 1986.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza Jr. said the government would be using in the criminal complaint the same evidence that it presented in Civil Case 0141, which it won last year at the Sandiganbayan.

Criminal cases 22867 to 22870 refer to the establishment of the Vibur, Aguamina, Avertina foundations and the Banque Paribas accounts, which Marcos had set up during his 20-year rule to hide wealth allegedly diverted from the national coffers.

"We have won the civil case so the criminal offenses involve the criminal liabilities. It does not involve the recovery of Marcos wealth but sending her to prison for opening these Swiss accounts," Carranza said.

Imelda has asked for the dismissal of the cases but was rejected.

The PCGG expects her arraignment to be set before yearend.

The documentary proof submitted yesterday pointed to the "direct participation and ownership" of Imelda Marcos in the placement of the funds in the Vibur, Aguamina and Avertina foundations, and in accounts in Banque Paribas.

The prosecution said that Imelda had exercised control and management over the Swiss foundations, which the Marcoses had used to "facilitate the transfer of ill-gotten wealth or moneys to the damage and prejudice of the government service."

The Sandiganbayan, which earlier said it had no basis to issue an arrest warrant for Imelda, had been asking the government to submit the evidence since March 1999.

Carranza said the PCGG would also ask the Supreme Court to compel Imelda to testify as a "hostile witness" in Civil Case 002 concerning the recovery of stolen state funds lodged in sequestered Marcos or crony shares in the Philippine Long Distance Co., San Miguel Corp. and Meralco, as well as kickbacks from government projects undertaken during the Marcos regime. The Sandiganbayan had earlier subpoenaed Imelda to appear before the court for the recovery case, but she has successfully stalled on the issue until the anti-graft court ordered the PCGG to terminate last month its presentation of evidence.

"It's inconsistent for the Sandiganbayan to issue a subpoena to Imelda on the one hand while ordering us to terminate our presentation of evidence. So we're going to the Supreme Court," he said.

Opposition smells blood in Mike's case

By Armand N. Nocum and Martin P. Marfil

OPPOSITION senators will not let up in their efforts to link First Gentleman Mike Arroyo's to the telecommunications franchise bill bribery scandal, claiming there were strong indications that Arroyo could be more deeply involved in the P40-million alleged scam.

Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said that although the blue ribbon committee probing the scam has so far come up only with "generalized statements" and "general insinuations" on Arroyo's alleged involvement, the opposition hoped to go to the "specifics" in subsequent sessions.

"If witnesses are made available, they can be examined to ferret out the truth," Pimentel said.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo said her husband has not been directly linked to the allegations that Malacañang insiders had accepted bribes to get her to rescind her veto of two legislative franchises.

In a press conference, Ms Macapagal said that she had listened to the testimony of her former appointments secretary, Veronica "Bing" Rodrigo, the other day and "I think (what) she said (was), she heard, she heard."

Also yesterday, her husband denied that Ito Los Baños, who Rodrigo had claimed was one of three people to have benefited financially from the scam, was a business associate.

"I do not have any business partners. The only partners I had was with my law firm and this partnership has long been dissolved," Arroyo told PNA.

He said he knew Los Baños as a former Senate staff member but stressed that had never had any business dealings with him.

The two other alleged bribe-takers named by Rodrigo were Antonio Gatuslao, a member of the presidential legislative liaison office staff, and Erlinda de Leon, a confidential assistant of Ms Macapagal.

Pimentel hinted the testimony of the three and that of Malou Nuñez, said to be an employee of the two telecommunications franchise firms, the Philippine Communication Clearing-house Inc. (PCCI) and APC Wireless Interface Inc., would establish Arroyo's guilt.

Rodrigo said the bribes were part of an attempt to recall a presidential veto of two franchise bills affecting PCCI and APC Wireless.

At the blue ribbon committee hearing last Thursday, Rodrigo said that what she knew of the bribery had come from Nuñez, who is believed to be living in New Jersey.

Pimentel said it was clear to him that Rodrigo knew more than she was saying.

"Perhaps Bing Rodrigo can spill out more information than what she gave in the first hearing," he said. "It appears she was restraining herself from saying more."

He said Nuñez's testimony would be crucial in establishing Arroyo's involvement.

"He may know more," he said of Arroyo, whom Rodrigo had earlier accused of taking a bribe. She later clarified that she only learned about it from Nuñez.

Earlier, Nuñez said she got the tale from a text message.

Opposition Sen. Blas Ople said it was important for the panel to initiate moves to get Nuñez to testify, or get her to execute a deposition at the Philippine Embassy in Washington D.C. and the Philippine consulate general in New York.

He described Nuñez as the "missing link" in the controversy.

He said if Nuñez fails to voluntarily appear before the committee hearing, she can be "indicted on the basis of a subpoena and extradited on the basis of her being a material witness."

With a report from PNA

Erap expresses concern over auditor's ambush

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada expressed concern yesterday over the murder of the Ilocos Sur provincial auditor who was to have testified in his behalf at his corruption trial.

"He was supposed to be my witness at the Sandiganbayan," said Estrada of Agustin Chan, who was ambushed and killed in the town of Bantay last week.

Estrada said the circumstances behind Chan's killing were "suspicious" because the witness had given testimony during his Senate impeachment trial last year that, according to the ousted president, would have exonerated him in the Sandiganbayan trial.

"He was the same provincial auditor who testified that the charges against me were baseless," Estrada said in a telephone interview over local radio from the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City where he is detained.

Estrada is accused of, among other things, embezzling P130 million in tobacco taxes intended for Ilocos Sur.

The money was allegedly delivered to his Greenhills home in 1998 by Charlie "Atong" Ang and former Ilocos Sur governor Luis "Chavit" Singson, two of his closest friends.

Singson later blew the whistle on Estrada and testified before the Senate that he had transferred the taxes from a government account to a private account before delivering it to Estrada.

Estrada said Friday that Singson had "asked me to have that auditor transferred to another area because he (Chan) would not cooperate with him."

Chan's murder, for which no one has been arrested, "is a sad development," Estrada added.

Estrada also said he did not regret his decision to stay in the Philippines after he was deposed in a popular uprising in January, and his priority now is to clear his name of corruption charges.

"If it's God's wish that I should get back my position, why not? I was given a six-year mandate by the people," the former leader told radio station dzBB.

AFP, Reuters reports

Palace lifts order blocking new jails chief

By Martin P. Marfil

MALACAÑANG has backed down and rescinded its order blocking the appointment of Sr. Supt. Josue Engaño as chief of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

In a memorandum to Interior Secretary Jose Lina, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo said the appointment of Engaño "should be left to the courts to resolve."

"Thus, as advised by the chief Presidential legal counsel (Avelino Cruz), the memorandum dated Oct. 2 holding in abeyance the appointment of (Engaño) is hereby recalled," Romulo said in the memorandum.

Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said this means Engaño can assume the top jails post.

"Engaño can assume the BJMP directorship but this would be subject to the decision of the courts," Tiglao said in a telephone interview.

"He is chief until the court says otherwise," he added.

The appointment of Engaño was opposed by the man he replaced, Chief Supt. Arturo Alit, before a Quezon City court allegedly because the former was underqualified.

Yesterday, Engaño, a lawyer, said the memorandum effectively relieved Lina as acting jails chief, a position he assumed on orders of the court on Oct. 8.

With the new order, Engaño urged Lina to be "fair" and start supporting his (Engaño's) leadership.

"He should stop insisting on the re-installation of (Alit) because (the President) has spoken on the BJMP issue," Engaño said in a press statement.

He also said Lina had been "misinformed" by the people around him who made him believe that Engaño was not qualified for the post.

DFA bans entry of fruits from China

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture has temporarily banned the importation of apples, pears, apricots, peaches, plums, cherries, almonds, quinces, walnuts, ornamental apples and corn from China.

The order came after the plant quarantine service of the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) recently intercepted the quarantine pest called "codling moth" in a shipment of fruits that came from China.

The fruits, loaded in eight container vans, were intercepted at the Manila South Harbor and the Manila International Container Terminal.

The DA said codling moth is one of the most noxious species of pests whose primary hosts are apple, pear, apricot, peach, plum, cherry, almond, quince, walnut, ornamental apple and corn. *PNA*

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS
PASAY CITY

ANNOUNCEMENT

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has submitted to the Commission on Appointments (C.A.) for confirmation the *ad interim* appointments of the following officers in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

To the grade of Commodore - Mateo M. Mayuga
To the grade of Colonel - Rasmia Alda V. Saber & Consuelo B. Estepa

The public may submit any information, written report or sworn complaints or oppositions in thirty (30) copies on the above appointments to the CA Secretariat, 6th Floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila.

For the schedule of the public hearings, the CA Secretariat can be reached through telephone numbers 551-7532, 831-0893, 831-1824 and 834-2706.

12 October 2001.

(Sgd.) **ARTURO L. TIU**
Secretary

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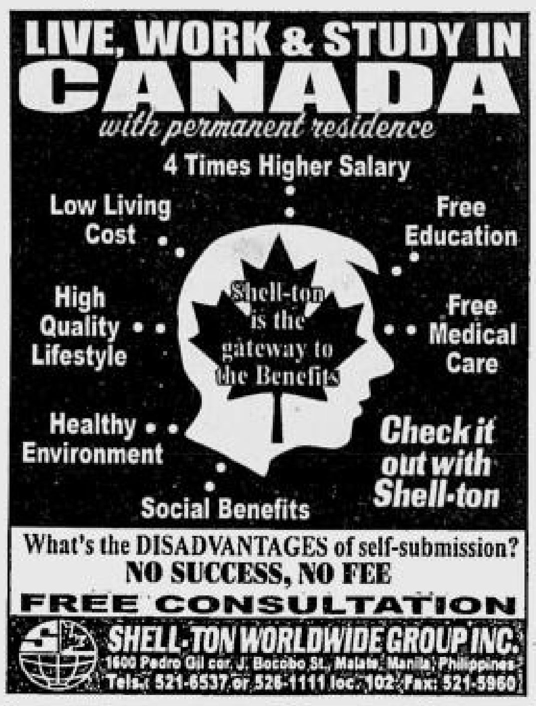
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INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The Supreme Court of the Philippines invites contractors to apply for prequalification/eligibility and bidding for the **CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, REFURBISHING AND UPGRADING OF SELECTED AREAS** (Memorabilia Room [Division Session Hall], Main Lobby, Session Hall, En Banc Dining and En Banc Conference Rooms, and Division Conference Rooms) **WITHIN THE SUPREME COURT NEW BUILDING, located at Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila.**

The Scope of Work shall cover the complete Architectural, Civil and Engineering works, the supply and installation of new Interior Fit-out and Furnishing of all Fixtures, Furniture and Equipment, and refurbishing of existing furniture items and finishes based on the Interior Design Contract Documents and Specifications of the Project and other requirements to complete the work.

The approved budget for the Project subject of the bid is Fifty Seven Million and Nine Hundred Ninety Eight Thousand Pesos (Php 57,998,000.00).

The application for prequalification/eligibility is open ONLY to bona fide qualified contractors registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB), Large "B" ("AAA" [Building]) licensee, who have completed in the last five (5) years projects similar in nature and complexity to the contract subject of the bid, the value of which must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget. Similar projects refer to projects for construction, renovation, refurbishing and upgrading of Court Hearing Rooms, Executive Conference Rooms or Board Rooms, Executive Dining Rooms, Main Lobby etc. In case of a Joint Venture, each of the members must satisfy the registration and classification requirements and shall be jointly and severally liable for any and all obligations which the Joint Venture may incur.

Prequalification/Eligibility Documents may be secured from the Office of the BAC Chairman, Third Floor, Supreme Court Old Building, Taft Avenue, Manila from October 8 to 22, 2001 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The accomplished forms may be submitted on or before October 30, 2001, at the same office. Prequalification/Eligibility Statements or any document in support thereof will no longer be accepted after 4:00 PM on October 30, 2001.

All applicants will be duly notified of the results of the prequalification/eligibility.

The Bid Form, Plans, Specifications, and other Bid Documents shall be issued to prequalified contractors upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 12,000.00. The BAC will also issue a timetable for the other phases of the bidding process.

All particulars relative to the Prequalification/Eligibility and bidding process shall be governed by the provisions of P.D. 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended, and other applicable rules and regulations.

The Supreme Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Supreme Court.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO H. DUJUA**
Chairman
Bid and Award Committee

ADVT.

Filipina remains in critical condition a day after suspected terrorist attack

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN

FILIPINA Mary Jane Vitos remained in critical condition a day after she and her husband, a Canadian, were attacked by an unknown gunman in Kuwait.

The man shot Vitos and her husband, Luc Ethier, several times while allegedly shouting "Allahu Akbar (God is Great)," a traditional war cry of Islamic extremists.

Ethier was killed instantly after taking four bullets in the body. He had worked for the US defense contracting company Dyncorp at the Ahmad al-Jaber airbase in Kuwait.

Philippine Embassy officials in Kuwait City, however, said it was too early to conclude that the attack was a hate crime against Westerners following the US attack on Afghanistan.

"We don't want to exclude anything but we don't want to jump to any conclusions right now," DFA spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros said.

Western diplomats and officials in Kuwait, however, said Thursday the attack appeared to have been preplanned and was possibly linked to the US-led strikes on Afghanistan.

"It has not been resolved yet, but there is a strong indication it could have been linked to the latest developments," said a senior Kuwaiti official, according to Reuters.

Ethier and Vitos were shot with an assault rifle in a fish market in the seaside town of Fahaheel on the outskirts of Kuwait City late Wednesday by the man who jumped out of a car.

A senior diplomat familiar with the investigation told Reuters: "We have heard a report about revenge being a motive but we could not confirm it. We do not have definite evidence, but one possibility is that it was linked to the (US) raids."

"It could have been a random attack on a Westerner," he added.

The DFA said it did not see a need at this time to issue an advisory to some 1.3 million Filipinos in the Middle East warning them against attacks by Islamic fundamentalists in their host countries.

Lecaros said what happened to Ethier and Vitos was an "isolated incident."

"We might be doing our people a disservice if we unduly alarm them and pull them out of their jobs because we are being jittery. We have to be reasonable about this, considering the ramifications of our actions," he said.

Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait Sukarno Tanggol said in a television interview that Vitos was shot in the lower back and that she might not walk again.

She was also hit in the shoulder and upper left arm, Tanggol said.

With a Reuters report

HK matron convicted of assaulting RP maid

HONG KONG—A wealthy Hong Kong housewife has been convicted of assaulting her Filipino maid with thumbtacks, scissors and a broom in what a magistrate called "a living hell," court officials and local media said Friday.

Sek Siu-fun, 40, is now in jail and faces sentencing on Oct. 26 for attacking domestic helper Anafer Galanza Gorospe in February at her home in Stanley, a former fishing village that now is a luxurious residential area.

Sek could receive up to three years on each of two counts of assault causing bodily harm, court officials said.

Gorospe testified that Sek brutalized her after saying the maid had not finished her chores quickly enough, using thumbtacks to prick her head, shoulder and arms, according to accounts of the trial in local newspapers.

Gorospe said her boss cut her hair with scissors and beat her with a broom during the assaults in February.

Magistrate Symon Wong was quoted as calling the attacks "vicious, brutal and cold-blooded."

"It is not an overstatement to say you have put her into a situation similar to a living hell," Wong said. "Your conduct amounts to an attempt to wind the clock back to a time when slavery was still common."

An advocate for Hong Kong's many Filipino maids also agreed that many of the women are mistreated.

About 223,000 foreigners work as domestic helpers here to send money to their families back home in some of Asia's poorer nations. They get a minimum wage of HK$3,670 (US$471) per month, plus room and board. *AP*

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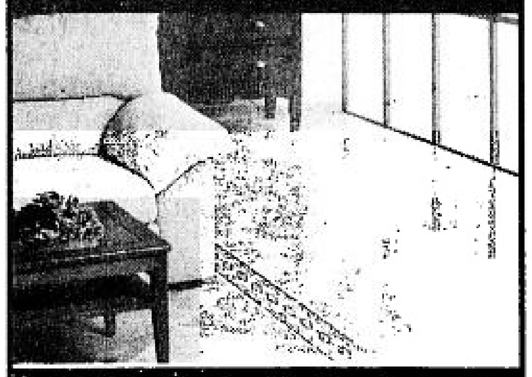

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BID nabs 2 Sinos working for Alfredo Tiongco

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

TWO Chinese nationals in the employ of a former suspected drug lord were arrested by Bureau of Immigration agents in Lubao, Pampanga the other night.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said Liu San Lun and Yu Jim Bao were believed to be chemists working for Alfredo Tiongco, who was acquitted on drug charges in 1999.

Liu and Yu could not present residency papers when arrested at their quarters in the Dimarucut Lumber Compound in Barangay Sta. Cruz, Lubao.

Yu later produced his passport, which showed he was an overstaying tourist since March. The document also showed Yu had been in and out of the country since he was arrested and released in 1997 after a raid on Tiongco's hollow block factory in Lubao, which police had suspected of being a drug laboratory.

Domingo said another suspected Chinese chemist named Huang Yuiao Tong was able to elude arrest as he was not at the compound when the agents arrived.

Domingo said Yu denied being a chemist but admitted working in Tiongco's hollow block factory as a repairer of cement-mixing machines. He said his monthly pay was P10,000 to P20,000.

Liu also denied being a chemist. He said he was a driver in the factory with a salary of P10,000 a month.

Domingo said the BI will check with Interpol if it had any derogatory information on the two men.

Chinese nationals have been linked to the local illegal drug trade by Mary "Rosebud" Ong, a former agent of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) and the Hong Kong police.

In 1997, Tiongco was tagged by police as a "level I drug importer."

He was charged with illegal possession of methamphetamine hydrochloride (*shabu*) after the drug was found in a fishing vessel he allegedly owned near the Navotas fish port in 1993.

The Quezon City Regional Trial Court dismissed the case in April 1999, however, for lack of evidence.

Tiongco was then released from the custody of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) which had held him after he was extradited from Hong Kong to where he had fled in August 1998.

Tiongco's name surfaced again during the recent Senate hearings on illegal drugs when Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop, former head of the Narcotics Group, accused Ong of being "an associate of suspected drug lord Alfredo Tiongco."

Tiongco faces a possible criminal suit after Domingo said the BI will file charges against him for harboring and concealing illegal aliens and for employing them without the proper visas.

Domingo said it was hard to believe the two Chinese would be hired as a driver and repairman when there were many qualified local workers who could do the jobs.

"We will coordinate with the Philippine National Police which might be interested in investigating the activities of these two," Domingo said.

Rodrigo Pedrealba, BI regional supervisor for Central Luzon, said the two suspected chemists were arrested after weeks of surveillance and with the help of informants who had tipped off the BI to the presence of foreigners in Tiongco's hollow block factory.

He said the informants have started receiving death threats from unknown persons.

Palace admits kidnap spree

ORGANIZED crime exploited the political tumult including the change of government this year to launch a new kidnapping spree, Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said yesterday.

"The past 10 months have not been normal times," Tiglao said, citing the uprising that toppled then-president Joseph Estrada and installed Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in January and other events.

"Criminal groups were emboldened" by attempts to destabilize the new Macapagal administration and a revamp of the national police including the removal of Estrada loyalists, Tiglao said.

"Remnants of old kidnapping groups independently thought they could take advantage of the situation (and) made it appear there is a massive increase in kidnapping incidents," Tiglao said.

However, he said the government was moving to check the new crime wave and Arroyo would meet next week with the ethnic Chinese community to get their feedback on stopping kidnappings.

The community has been the main target of kidnappers due to perceptions that many Chinese are wealthy.

The new abductions including relatives of prominent Filipino-Chinese, had raised fears of a return to the spate of kidnappings-for-ransom that hurt the country's international image in the 1990s.

Tiglao said they had suspicions that Estrada loyalists in the police might be involved, adding they were also looking at possible political motivations behind the kidnappings. ***AFP***

Waray lawmakers slam DOH

EASTERN Visayan congressional representatives yesterday criticized the Department of Health for its meager budget allocation for their depressed provinces, accusing the department of bias in favor of other regions.

The six lawmakers, led by ex-broadcaster, now Leyte Rep. Ted Failon, has asked the House committee on appropriations to do something about correcting the health department's "disproportionate and inequitable" distribution of funds under the proposed 2002 budget.

In a letter to committee chair Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr., the legislators claimed that the Eastern Visayas provinces stand to get the smallest slice of next year's DOH budget.

And yet their provinces are among the poorest in the country, they said.

Failon said the region would only get P.5 million in support from the department's Center for Health Development, compared to P7.54 million for Western Visayas, P5.58 million for Central Luzon, and P5.55 million for the Bicol region.

Noting another "glaring disparity," Failon said Eastern Visayas would be getting only P163.4 million for health operations while Western Visayas is to get P351.94 million, Central Visayas P417.96 million, and Western Mindanao P273.27 million.

"We cannot understand why we are being treated like this . . . when our provinces are considered among the country's most depressed areas," Failon said.

Those who signed the letter of complaint, aside from Failon, were Representatives Trinidad Apostol (Leyte), Gerardo Espina (Biliran), Aniceto Saludo (Southern Leyte), Reynaldo Uy (Samar) and Romualdo Vicencio (Northern Samar).

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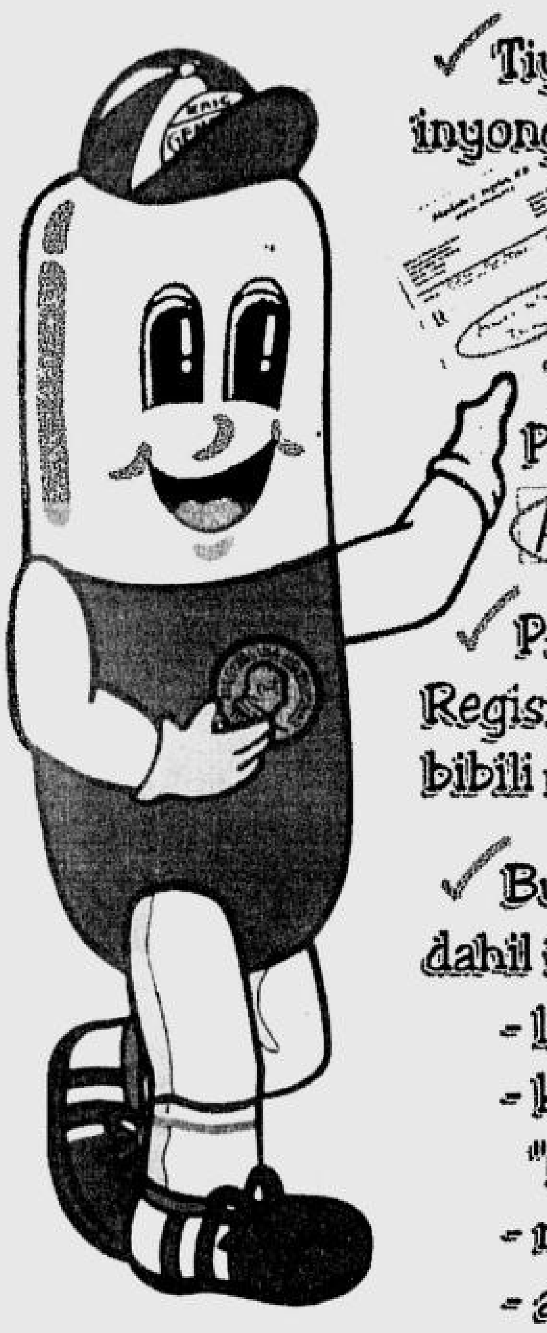

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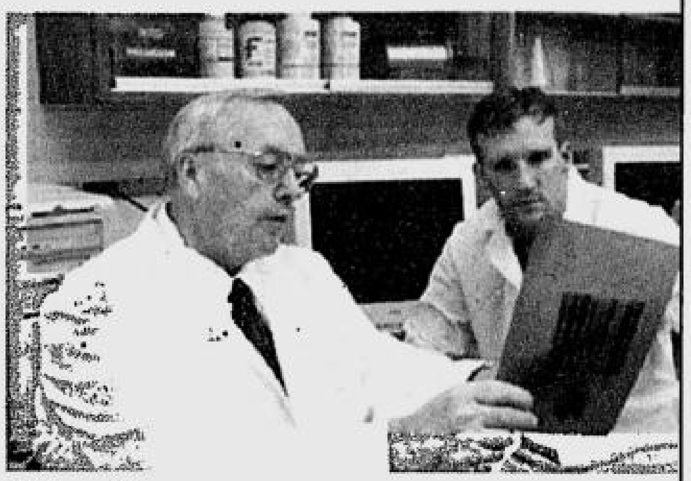
- Earned a doctorate in Biomedical Sciences (Oncology) from University of Ulster in 1986
- Involved with the Cancer Research Center at Brigham Young University and led a research team in the pursuit of strengthening the immune system through nutrition
- Published over 75 peer-reviewed scientific papers and gave more than 100 presentations in international scientific meetings
- Developed the *Thymidine Kinase monoclonal antibody technology*
- Served as Chairman of the Board of Combat Cancer and American Cancer Society (Utah County division)



Dr. Byron Murray

- Received his PhD in Microbiology with minor in Biochemistry
- Published scientific paper on the roles of vitamin B12 and folic acid in the biosynthesis of methionine, an amino acid essential for maintaining good health
- Completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine from 1971-1973
- Received numerous research awards from the National Institutes of Health, including a prestigious five-year Research Career Development Award from 1979-1984.
- Served as Director of the Carcinogen Research Branch at the Medical College of Virginia Cancer Center and Director of Cancer Center at Brigham Young University
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In time of war, peacemakers win Nobel Peace Prize

(From page A1)

contribution to the United Nations as the most powerful and efficient instrument in combating conflicts and also as a contribution to the secretary general to operate more efficiently."

"They would have been relevant candidates no matter what, but the recent events make them more relevant," Lundestad added.

The Nobel Prizes were created by Alfred Nobel, a Swedish philanthropist and inventor of dynamite, in his will and are always presented on the anniversary of his death in 1896.

The first Peace Prize, in 1901, honored Jean Henry Dunant, the Swiss founder of the Red Cross.

Other winners

This year's Nobels started Monday with the naming of medicine prize winners, American Leland H. Hartwell and Britons Tim Hunt and Paul Nurse, for work on cell development that could lead to new cancer treatments.

The physics award went Tuesday to German scientist Wolfgang Ketterle and Americans Eric A. Cornell and Carl E. Wieman for creating a new state of matter, an ultra-cold gas known as Bose-Einstein condensate.

On Wednesday, the economics prize went to Americans George A. Akerlof, A. Michael Spence and Joseph E. Stiglitz for developing ways to measure the power of information in a wide range of deals and investments.

On the same day, Americans K. Barry Sharpless and William S. Knowles shared the chemistry prize with Ryoji Noyori of Japan for showing how to better control chemical reactions used in producing medicines.

V.S. Naipaul won the literature prize Thursday for his "incorruptible scrutiny" of postcolonial society and his critical assessments of Muslim fundamentalism.

Thirty-four past laureates are expected in Oslo for centennial celebrations leading up to the Dec. 10 awards ceremony. Similar celebrations are planned in Stockholm, Sweden, where the other Nobel Prizes are awarded.

Ghanaian

Annan, born in 1938 in Ghana, became UN secretary general in 1997. He has been praised for his character, moral leadership, his efforts to stop civil wars in Africa and elsewhere, and his efforts to combat AIDS.

He was the first leader to be elected from the ranks of UN staff. He was heading UN peacekeeping operations when he was tapped for the top job after the United States lobbied to prevent his predecessor, Boutros Boutros-Ghali of Egypt, from taking a second term.

In an unprecedented vote of confidence, Annan was unanimously reelected to a second five-year term by the 189 UN member-states in June, six months before his first term expires on Dec. 31.

More than a dozen Peace Prizes have been awarded to UN agencies or workers since the United Nations was established in 1945. This is the first time the world body itself won the prize.

The Netherlands-based UN war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia was also considered a contender.

Last year, South Korean President Kim Dae-jung won for his reconciliation efforts with North Korea. No such peace efforts stood out in media speculation this year.

Lundestad said the Peace Prize winners were picked on Sept. 28, 17 days after the terror attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"Of course, the committee was very aware of that event," he said. ***Reports from AP and Reuters***

Thailand joins Asean network against terror

(From page A1)

condemned in the strongest terms. We will adhere to our commitment under the related United Nations Security Council resolution, and we will render our support and assistance to the international community in combating terrorism," Thaksin said.

He added: "Thailand believes that Asean needs to make an extra effort in strengthening closer cooperation and activities in areas such as on intelligence exchange, personnel training and other preventive measures to keep track of the possible entry of terrorists into Asean countries."

The two leaders said the US-led fight against terrorism was not directed against Islam.

"Terrorism is an act which does not discriminate against any race or religion," Thaksin said.

Financial crisis

The prime minister also enlisted the Philippines' support for his proposal to convene a meeting of economies affected by the Asian financial crisis on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit next week.

"It is very important that developing countries like the Philippines and Thailand should join hands to find alternatives to better face the challenges of globalization," Thaksin said.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Thai Foreign Minister Surakyart Sathirathai signed a treaty on the transfer of sentenced persons and on cooperation in the enforcement of penal sentences.

The treaty will allow the continued serving of sentence by offenders in the country of nationality and facilitate their reintegration in their respective societies.

Thaksin and his official delegation flew in yesterday around 11:30 a.m. aboard the Royal Thai Air Force Airbus 310-300.

They will leave for Bangkok today at 3 p.m. ***With a report from TJ Burgonio***

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OPINION

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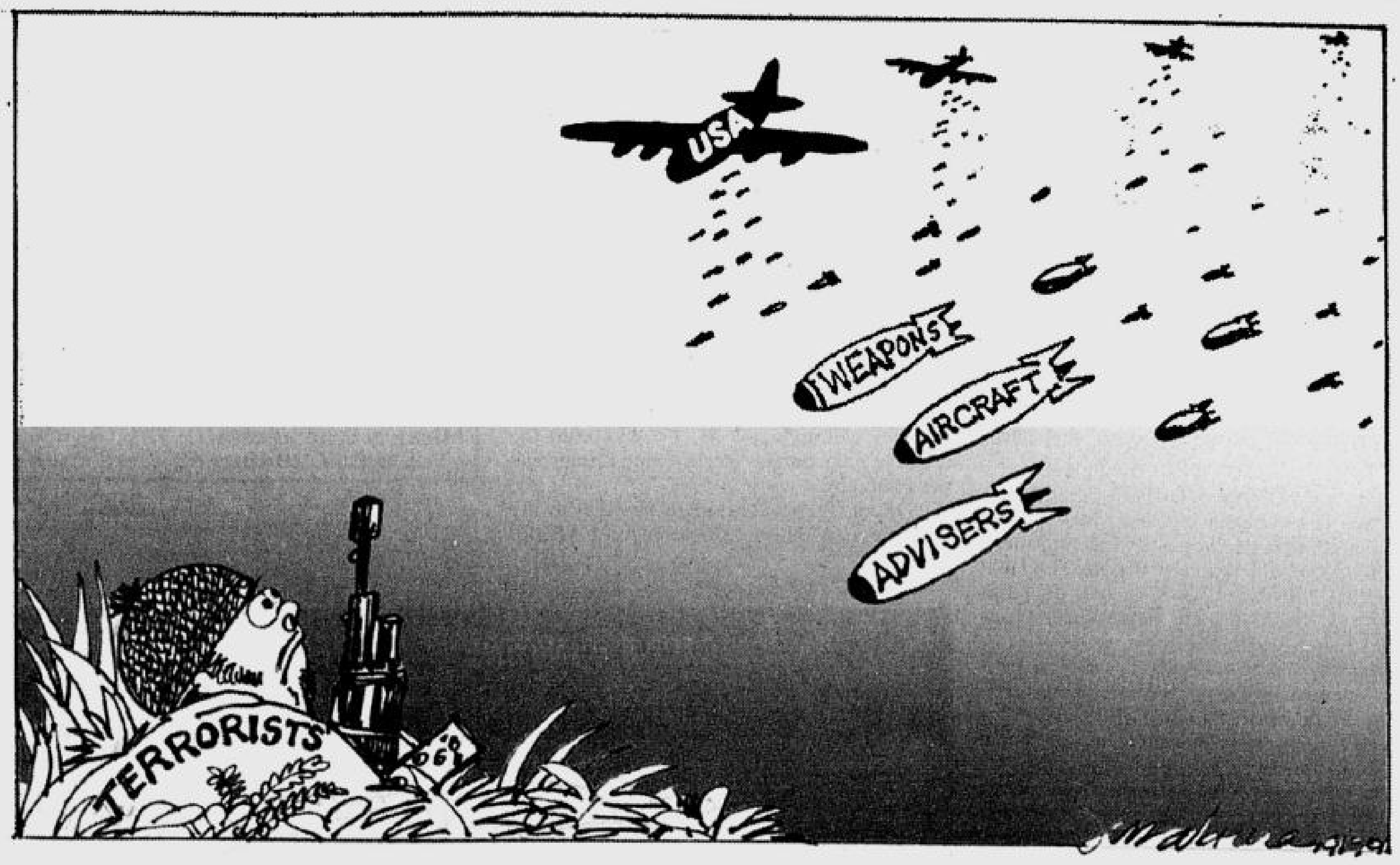

Looking inward

EDITORIAL

DESPITE the rally this week on global equities markets, both government and private sector economists have cautioned that the upturn cannot be considered sustainable. As the war on terrorism shifts to a new phase with the bombing by the US-led coalition on Taliban military targets in Afghanistan, heightening uncertainties over possible retaliatory attacks by terrorist groups, the magnitude of the catastrophic economic toll inflicted by the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States on the global economy is just beginning to take shape.

According to the United Nations' update of the global economic outlook for 2001, the aftershocks of the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York would shave $350 billion from the world's economy this year, hitting the developing economies of South and East Asia hardest. World economic growth is expected to be trimmed by one percentage point, to 1.4 percent from the previous forecast of 2.4 percent.

The US economy is expected to grow one percent this year, from the previous forecast of 1.8 percent. East and South Asian economies are forecast to grow at 1.2 percent this year, compared with an earlier forecast of 4.3 percent. European economies are expected to grow 1.8 percent, compared with 2.7 earlier forecast, and Japan's economy is expected to shrink 0.5 percent, compared with the earlier forecast of 0.7 percent.

Among East Asian economies, only China is forecast to grow at 7.5 percent this year. This is accounted for by the fact that China is relatively isolated from the US economy; its exports to the United States account for only 3.7 percent of its gross domestic product. Here is where we may draw a lesson for the Philippines. The United States accounts for as much as 26 percent of its GDP, and for more than 30 percent of our exports. The Philippines depends largely on exports of electronics, one of its leading exports, or 12.6 percent of its GDP.

In the aftermath of the Sept. 11 bombings that have caused growth in industrial economies to slow down further, Philippine economic growth estimates have been revised downward. The Asian Development Bank is revising its growth forecasts for the Philippines for 2001 and 2002 in the wake of the contract of exports. The economy is forecast to grow less than 3 percent this year and even less than 3.3 percent next year. The interagency Development Budget Coordinating Council has trimmed the GDP target for this year by 0.5 percent, to 2.8 percent from 3.3 percent. The International Monetary Fund has slashed its growth projection for the Philippines to 2.5 percent from 3 percent this year.

Against this gloomy outlook, there is a silver lining. Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura has suggested tapping the potential of the domestic market to drive growth. He has pointed to agriculture production as a growth area; President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has put emphasis on agricultural modernization as a sector to absorb the shock of the shrinking export markets.

Prior to the terrorist attacks in the United States, the government had forecast a 3.3 percent to 3.8 percent growth for 2001, with a strong growth in the third quarter. Responsible for the third quarter growth was the strong performance of agriculture and the services, the latter indicating the absorption capacity of the domestic market in a country with more than 70 million people. Economists are increasingly interested in looking inward for economic expansion, at least while the global economy is slowing down.

Never has the Philippine economy been more hostage to external developments than now, except during World War II. The global repercussions of the attack in the United States have made political events—i.e. the bombings in the United States—the main determinant of the economic outlook. The global shock stemming from the bombings has curtailed the effectiveness of the conventional monetary mechanisms—such as interest rates—to stimulate growth.

In the recent past, domestic political crisis undermining confidence in government—as in the Estrada administration—played a key role in the economic slowdown, coming on the heels of the 1997 Asian financial crisis. Political uncertainties in the Philippines arising from challenges to the Macapagal administration have been aggravated by the international economic downturn accelerated by the bombings in the United States. The administration cannot, however, use the terrorist attacks as an excuse to falter in seeking a national consensus on an economic emergency agenda.

Elevating our mass media

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THOSE who watched the TV coverage by the foreign networks of the terrorist attacks in the United States must have noticed the delicacy with which the visual reports were handled. Despite the horror of the unbelievable tragedy and its grisly toll of human lives, the carnage was exhibited to the viewing public without hysteria or blind fury but with a kind of nobility befitting a grieving nation.

Without exception, CBS, CNN, Fox News and BBC acted with exemplary restraint. The attacks on the Twin Towers and their collapse were shown during the first few days of the disaster but the video was soon discontinued in deference to the feelings of the TV audience. There was an earlier nerve-wracking shot of persons jumping to their death from the burning buildings. But this was never shown again for being too shocking for the people's sensibilities.

The attacks claimed the lives of some 6,000 persons, with the bodies of about 200 of them recovered and identified. Yet, to the credit of the networks, not a single corpse was exposed to the public. The dead bodies shown on TV were fully covered, and there were no pictures of mangled victims or grisly body parts. The networks merely announced the names of the recovered dead or flashed their pictures when they were still alive. There was no need of macabre proof of their demise.

The good taste with which the American people were informed of the traitorous attack upon their country and the loss of thousands of their unwary countrymen contributed much to the rational reaction to the massacre. The national mood was of quiet but not berserk indignation. There was simmering anger but it did not boil over into violence.

The media, especially television, could have whipped up a storm of wrath and homicidal vengefulness. Inflamed emotions would have added to the toll of innocent lives, this time of the law-abiding Muslims living in the country. Fortunately, the calmer voices of President George W. Bush and other leaders, also expressed through the ubiquitous media, tempered the rising rage.

One notes with not a little wryness the difference in the policies of our own media when it comes to reporting catastrophes and similar occurrences. It can be said at the outset that such policies are extremely vulgar. I regret to observe that there is little in our own media of the discretion and propriety that marked the conduct of the foreign media in their coverage of the American holocaust.

Disasters seem to feed the ghoulish nature of the Philippine media. Killings always give a field day for our television networks and news publications, including the respectable broadsheets. Murders, accidents, and other bloody incidents—and the bloodier the better—are grist for the mill. Our media enjoy announcing every sanguine happening on their front pages or exhibiting it on prime time TV for the delectation of their audience.

Remember the Kuratong Baleleng massacre? The newspapers and television companies vied with each other in displaying pictures of the rubbed-out victims in various positions of helplessness and *rigor mortis*. It's not uncommon for the TV networks to announce that a "suspect" has been gunned down by the police and to add insult to injury by exhibiting the half-naked corpse lying on a slab in the morgue. Cameramen seem to enjoy these crude and thoughtless pictures that the editors readily publish to satisfy the morbid curiosity of the public.

What is sought to be accomplished by such gory sights? How can such coarseness be justified as a constitutional right? Increase in readership or commercials cannot be a valid excuse for the distortion of the news by appealing to the baser instincts and bloodlust of people who thrive on ugliness and their own ill-breeding.

Last week, there was a report of a man run over by a truck. The news item was backed by a video of the dead man still lying under the vehicle. To compare, I clicked to the other channels to see if they also carried the same report. They did, together with the picture of the corpse under the truck. The ghastly shot was nauseating. It did not add an iota to the sum of human intelligence or edification. If at all, it only proved that our local networks are competing for the title of The Most Vulgar.

The broadsheets did not report that accident, but one of them did publish on its front page a big photograph of a person shot dead in a supposed buy-bust operation. Such pictures are not uncommon. If not those, there are the depressing pictures of caskets, with some famous personality looking at the dead person. I don't know about you, but I'd rather not start the day confronted by a coffin on TV or a morning paper while sipping my breakfast coffee.

One might say that American movies are equally uncouth with all the sex and violence clearly offending normal sensibilities. Granted. But these are essentially commercial enterprises only and do not have the same responsibility as those reporting and interpreting the news. Philippine entertainment is no better. That it is symbolized by its most prominent practitioner, the deposed President Estrada, is saying a lot against the industry.

The primary motivation of the print and broadcast media is the dissemination of information on matters of public interest. They deal with facts, not fiction. The free society can do without mere amusement, but it must be informed of what's going on in the country and the world around it. That is why such media must recognize a higher sense of mission in their search and discovery of the truth. And no less important is their circumspect appreciation of its effects on the public to whom it will be reported.

Our mass media should review their policies to rid themselves of the tabloid mentality that is marring Philippine journalism in general. There are enough tabloids in our country to spread bad taste among their readers with screaming headlines and pictures of corpses and naked starlets. (Except the Pinoy Times, Eggie). Our reputable newspapers and television networks can take a more dignified and decorous stance by exercising more refinement in the way they publish the news. Sensationalizing mayhem and sex may attract more readers or higher ratings but it will only cheapen their craft.

Lessons from European social policy

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THE ASIAN Development Bank had two poverty-related conferences going on at the same time this week—one on the impact of infrastructure (transport and energy) on poverty reduction, and the other on poverty, growth and the role of institutions. I attended the latter, and must say that the presentations, the discussions and the comments from the floor were quite thought-provoking. My own personal reactions to what was said or presented ranged across the whole gamut on a scale of 0 to 10, where 10 would indicate total agreement and 0 would be total incredulity.

Prof. Assar Lindbeck of the Stockholm University in Sweden gave the keynote speech (to be distinguished from the opening address of ADB president Tadao Chino and the inaugural address of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo—how's that for semantic convolutions?), which was on the lessons that could be learned by developing Asia from the European Welfare states.

Because his expression was so forbidding (are Swedes so glum-looking? I've met so few of them), it was a delightful surprise to hear him speak in such a mild, down-to-earth manner—apologizing up front for his limited knowledge about social conditions and welfare arrangements in Asia, and willing to revise his "preliminary" reflections after hearing the audience's comments and criticisms. What is more, his listeners could follow his discourse even without the aid of those ubiquitous power-point presentations—which is a rare thing in this day and age of spoon-feeding. A first-class lecturer, even though he thought that the lady with 7,000 pairs of shoes was from Indonesia.

Alas, Chino's excellent speech was spoiled by at best mediocre delivery. But he was still better than President Macapagal, I am sorry to say. It was obvious, from her ill-timed pauses, that she was reading her speech for the first time. More disappointing, its content was more suited to a domestic political rally than to an international conference. She would have done better had she spoken extemporaneously—because then her knowledge of the subject would at least have shone through.

Maybe she was just off her feed. Or maybe her hectic schedule was catching up on her. When she entered the hall, I was struck at how pale she looked, but then attributed it to how she was made up. In any case, whoever wrote her speech should be reprimanded for being too parochial.

But back to what Lindbeck's keynote address, which I thought was of great relevance to the Philippines. From where I sat, his main message was simple, yet profound. Don't try to copy (it would be a serious mistake) current European social policies. What prevailed in Europe pre-World War II and even pre-World War I would be more relevant. Some states in Latin America (e.g. Argentina) tried the former, resulting in what Lindbeck termed premature welfare state arrangements that were neither sustainable nor favorable for growth and development.

What was Europe pre-World War II like in so far as social policies were concerned? There was more reliance on family, neighbors and civil society for social protection. Government's emphasis was on poverty relief, using means-tested subsidies. It concentrated on solving elementary problems of sanitation, infectious diseases, sewage systems. The main thrust then was to fight poverty rather than to protect incomes, which is its main thrust now.

The only current European social policy (although Lindbeck is careful to emphasize that it is misleading both to talk about a common European social model or a common Asian social model) that Lindbeck considers important for Asia to also push at this time is that of environmental protection—which is not a luxury, but a necessity for health and growth.

Lindbeck also points to some basic weaknesses in the European system which he cautions Asian countries to avoid. One is that when European pension systems were constructed (after World War II), they were not robust enough to withstand unexpected changes. For example, they assumed that the proportion of the working age population to the old age population would remain fixed—and of course it has decreased considerably, which has necessitated a larger than expected payroll tax on the current wage earners.

It was also assumed that growth rates would remain constant and high, which of course was not fulfilled, and which therefore meant that the expectations about the pension system could also not be met.

And finally Lindbeck cautions us to be careful not to run into incentive problems—the so-called moral hazard. For example, high unemployment benefits and favorable conditions for early retirement have resulted in people not looking too hard for jobs, and for others to retire earlier than they should (in Italy, people can get pensions at 53).

The most interesting lesson he draws for Asia from the European experience is in the area of income and job security. If we accept the proposition, he says, that the high unemployment rates in Europe are from a combination of macroeconomic shocks and "unemployment persistence" mechanisms, therefore, we should avoid these (which is of course easier said than done).

There is a strong case, Lindbeck says, for avoiding these "unemployment persistence" mechanisms. How? Go slow in raising unemployment benefits. And be careful of job security legislation, which may benefit those who already have jobs ("insiders") at the expense of those without or with only unstable jobs ("outsiders").

I told you he was down to earth. But I can already hear the screaming from the "insiders."

Opposition to weigh Nuñez's Senate appearance

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

ROBERT Rivero, the media consultant whose contract the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office threw out because of numerous complaints from media outlets that he was mulcting them for commissions, sought to discredit so many serious media practitioners of long record in the industry for one reason: Rivero obviously hoped that the muck he has raked up would divert the public's attention from the issues against the political opposition that was pulling his strings, such as the links of police agents in drug-trafficking in our midst. For instance, the Rivero exposé has helped drown out the impact of the release by state witness Mary "Rosebud" Ong to the Senate joint committees of six letters from the Hong Kong Police to then PAOCTF Chief Panfilo Lacson, linking his organization to drug-trafficking and calling his attention to the problem. This is considered by the committees as a breakthrough in their eight days of hearings, but this was hardly carried by the media.

* * *

If there's one lesson the media ought to have learned from the Rivero episode, it is that people like him, whose reputation is totally sullied even with the opposition that he serves, ought not to be given a continuing forum. Here we note how radio has been particularly susceptible to his manipulation. What is lamentable is that the still unsubstantiated allegations of one man of total disrepute have thrown the Senate and the media into an uproar, when there are so many pressing problems gripping the nation in reality, such as the state of the economy and the repercussions of the allied war against the Taliban and Osama bin Laden.

* * *

Under intense questioning from Sen. Serge Osmeña, Veronica Rodrigo opined during the Senate blue ribbon committee hearing on First Gentleman Mike Arroyo's alleged involvement in the telecommunications franchise bills that a small group in the Palace had accepted bribes in exchange for attempts to recall the President's veto of those bills. Rodrigo named three Palace officials as she asserted that it appears that money had changed hands between the "bribe-givers" and the "bribe-takers," while at the same time "clearing" Mike Arroyo of involvement. At this point, however, Rodrigo's basis for such claim is former Transportation employee Malou Nuñez's say-so, but the former's allegation would remain pure hearsay if this is not substantiated by Nuñez herself. Summoning Nuñez, who ran away to New Jersey, USA, after the controversy erupted, however, may be a bigger headache for the opposition that's manipulating this issue.

* * *

The Senate has subpoenaed Nuñez, but whether she would show up at the hearing is debatable, considering that she is already in big trouble from trying to broker for a private firm while still a government employee. Her appearance at the Senate obviously would depend on whether the opposition thinks it has much to gain from it. Under oath, Nuñez might have difficulty concealing the true circumstances of the franchise deals, including the unusual speed with which the old Senate passed the franchise bills and the key role of opposition Sen. Vicente Sotto in their passage. I suspect Nuñez would opt to stay in New Jersey.

* * *

There was an interesting moment in the Senate hearing when former First Lady Loi Ejercito Estrada, fed by a tall bearded man and a pantsuited *mestiza* in the audience with questions on pieces of paper passed on to her, queried her successor, Mike Arroyo, on who was the "real owner" of the telecom firm in question. Arroyo had earlier said that while the record showed that Pacifico Mendoza was the "owner," the talk in the telecom industry is that he is merely fronting for Jaime Dichaves. The latter, it will be recalled, had owned up to the Jose Velarde account. Loi Estrada, coached by the bearded guy, pressed Arroyo to identify the "real owner," obviously in an effort to protect her husband's friend Dichaves, but Arroyo stuck to his earlier remark that Mendoza was a mere front for Dichaves.

* * *

At the Sunday, 9:15 p.m. "Radyo Balintataw" show on dzRH where I help host Cecile Guidote-Alvarez focus on private-sector programs for poverty alleviation, we recently zeroed in on the water problem in Metro Manila. I quoted a World Bank "report card," based on a survey conducted by the Social Weather Stations among 1,200 respondents last year about how the very poor in our midst, more than the upper classes, have suffered the most from the expensive and often dirty water bought from the *cariton* vendors. The World Bank report noted that as a result of the steep price of vended water, the poor avoid drinking the minimum requirement for water, prejudicing their health. The Macapagal administration has recognized this serious problem, as the President listed this as a top priority in basic services in her State of the Nation Address.

* * *

Our guest, Joel Lacsamana, corporate communications director for Manila Water Co., told us that the firm's owner, the Ayala Group, is very much aware of the problem. It has chosen to invest some P120 million in what's billed as the biggest "Tubig Para sa Barangay" project of Manila Water in the Manggahan Floodway water supply in Pasig City and Cainta, with the first phase, delivering water to over 150 families in Pasig, inaugurated last month by President Macapagal. The heavily populated east and west bank areas of the Manggahan Floodway, an 18-km stretch of the man-made canal, cuts across three major cities within Manila Water's East Zone service area and is home to more than 200,000 urban poor residents.

* * *

Lacsamana pointed out that Manila Water's Manggahan "Tubig" project will lay over 18,000 meters of main pipes along the floodway banks and bring clean, affordable water to over 35,000 urban poor families. He stressed that the company recognizes that one reason why water is being pilfered is the fact that depressed families often find the cost of paying pipe connections to their houses quite steep. To help cut costs, Manila Water allows an installment plan for the payments for service connection and the sharing of each water meter by a cluster of four or five families. Lacsamana pointed out that today the urban poor families pay a mere P4.64 per cubic meter (about five drums) of water, compared with more than P200 per cu.m. they paid for vended water prior to the connections.

One good offshoot of this arrangement, says Lacsamana, is that the common problem of working out payments together has fostered a closer sense of community among barangays. Then too, the residents are encouraged to be more hands-on in securing their water connections, in the process policing these lines against illegal connections. Hopefully, the bonding of families as a result of the common solution to the water problem would lead to the solution of many other community problems such as the eradication of drugs and criminality.

A 'salad bowl' world

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN A COUNTRY that was populated by waves of migration, one would expect diversity to be a cherished value. But all too often, the heady mix of different cultures is subsumed to the "greater" or "more dominant" culture. The metaphor of the "melting pot," of disparate cultural ingredients coming together into a boil and blending into a many-flavored stew, is often used to describe such a society. In the "melting pot," cultural differences give way to a dominant way of life, that allows only for rare expressions of communal and individual differences.

The United States is one such society. But according to Dr. Gary Weaver, chair of the board of advisers of the International Management Institute of the American University, the "melting pot" is no longer sufficient to describe present-day America. Today, diverse immigrant groups are asserting their unique identities and cultures.

A better metaphor, he says, is the "salad bowl," where "each vegetable adds its own texture and taste just as men and women, black, white, yellow or brown races combine to create a society where individual differences in gender, race, religion or ethnic background are valued."

* * *

IN THE AFTERMATH of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and the ongoing bombings in Afghanistan, however, the "salad bowl" is showing some cracks.

In the early days immediately after the World Trade Center and Pentagon tragedies, Arab-Americans, or anyone who simply looked Arabic, wore a turban, or was simply too exotic for mainstream America, came under random attacks. It was certainly an irony that one of the earliest fatalities of such hate attacks was a Sikh, who was neither an Arab nor Muslim.

"Our most cherished values of individualism and sense of unity as a nation are being challenged," Weaver admits, though he adds that American leaders were quick to condemn racist attacks and sought to include Muslim clerics and prominent Arab-Americans in rituals to honor the dead and missing. Thus Weaver does not see a repeat of the World War II incarceration of Japanese-Americans, arguing that "the government certainly learned a lot of lessons from that experience."

And the world has responded in turn to the US government's careful distinction between Islam and its believers, and those who would twist the teachings of Islam to advance their agenda of violence. "If the terrorists had wanted to unite the Muslim world against the West in the wake of the attacks," says Weaver, "they accomplished the exact opposite."

* * *

ANOTHER dividend of the post-Sept. 11 situation is that it has shown quite clearly the folly of a policy of isolationism which seemed to be the dominant thinking in the early months of the Bush administration. "He has made a 180-degree switch," Weaver says of George W. Bush, who had shown a tendency to act unilaterally and ignore even US allies since he took office.

Since the attacks, and the subsequent campaign to win worldwide support for the "war against terrorism," the Bush government has undertaken such conciliatory moves as paying their dues to the United Nations and giving international covenants, which they had outrightly rejected, a second look. Weaver is also quite confident that funding for foreign aid, steadily eroded by a Republican-dominated Congress, would be restored to previous levels in the months to come.

"We can't do it alone," Weaver told a group of local journalists over lunch. "America has learned that the two oceans cannot protect us from our enemies."

So, too, have the Taliban learned that their isolation was no guarantee of protection from American bombs. We live in a "salad bowl" world, and for good or evil, we are in this toss-up together.

* * *

IT'S hard to believe, but already 18 years have passed since the pioneering parents entrusted their pre-schoolers to the equally pioneering teachers at the Community of Learners. Since then, the parents have marched inexorably into middle-age, while the young, single and idealistic teachers, led by "Teacher Feny" de los Angeles-Bautista have themselves moved on, starting their own families and expanding the once-little school on Edsa to a full-blown non-traditional institution with an elementary and high school department.

I knew the years had indeed marched forward when I found out that some COL alumni had returned to the school as part of the faculty. But the really astounding thing is that COL, despite its longevity, still doesn't feel like a moribund institution. The presence of spritely pre-schoolers certainly helps keep the ambience young, but so does the spirit of creativity and informality along with personal concern and caring that permeates the curriculum, the classroom atmosphere and the relations among students, teachers and parents.

The public will have a chance to imbibe that same spirit tonight, when students, teachers and parents mount a "Music and Dance Festival" at the Henry Lee Irwin Theater of the Ateneo de Manila University.

Headlining the night's performers are top-notch artists who just happen to be parents of COL children. Among them: Michael V, Grace Nono and Bob Aves, RJ Jacinto, Jaime Fabregas, Chinggoy Alonzo, Noel Cabangon, Mel Villena, Susan Fernandez, Dojie Fernandez, Jire Carreon and DV8. Of course, COL students will also be performing, from toddlers to elementary and high school students, even to the teachers.

Major sponsors are Johnson & Johnson Phils. and Broadcom Asia, with GMA Marketing, Publicis AMA, Celeen, Jollibee, CK HotDip Galvanizing Corp., Philippine Health Food Corp. and RX Monster Radio.

Proceeds of the "Music and Dance Festival" will go to a fund-raising effort for Community of Learner's permanent home in Quezon City.

Father Ted replies

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

WHILE other readers made their comments on the article, "The bishops and our churches" (PDI, 9/29/01) to state their agreement, it was Fr. Milan Ted Torralba, executive secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines Permanent Committee for the Cultural Heritage of the Church who took time out to correct my mistakes. For those interested in your living faith, it is important that you read his comments so that in the event you have any questions you know whom to address.

It seems that way back in 1978 Jaime Cardinal Sin created for the Archdiocese of Manila (but only for Manila) an Archdiocesan Commission on the Preservation of the Historical and Aesthetic Value of Our Churches and Buildings. This is the precursor of the Archdiocesan Commission for the Conservation of the Patrimony of Art and History of the Church, canonically established by the cardinal in 1992. Neither of these commissions could save the Binondo Church or Sta. Ana for that matter.

Now the CBCP created the Permanent Committee for the Cultural Heritage of the Church in 1996. This is the one headed by Bishop Leopoldo Tumulak and is national in scope. It is not subject to any ecclesiastical jurisdiction but to the CBCP. The committee has two boards; the Executive composed of bishop-members and chaired by His Excellency +Leopoldo Tumulak (Bohol); His Excellency +Antonio Tobias, member (Luzon); His Excellency +Jose Sorra, member (Luzon); His Excellency +Arturo Bastes, member (Visayas); His Excellency +Juan de Dios Pueblos, member (Mindanao); His Excellency +Jesus Dosado, member (Mindanao); Fr. Ted Torralba secretary, (Bohol). The other board is sort of an informal board of lay consultants. Father Ted states that "initially and ideally, we would have wanted the two boards to meet once a year with each board meeting at least twice." But there's the little problem of finances.

I had stated that the Butuan conference was serious enough that Archbishop Francesco Marchisano had come all the way from Rome to attend but apparently his excellency also attended the first conference in Bohol in 1999 as did the Dottoressa Maria Cristina Carlo-Stella who, by the way, isn't the only female member of the Roman Curia these days. There are apparently a good number of them, which should warm the cockles of nuns' hearts who used to complain that they used to be employed only for housekeeping chores. It is further politically correct to refer to the Vatican as the Holy See; exactly why, I'm not sure. The "See" would of course refer to the bishopric of Rome.

I also have to apologize for not mentioning Bishop Jesus Dosado, C.M., archbishop of Ozamis, who was also present together with Bishops Tumulak and Pueblos. The conference apparently was not primarily for bishops but for "chairpersons, directors, officers and members of archdiocesan commissions for church heritage, church construction, preservation and such like." Too bad because as one priest asked, "How am I supposed to correct my bishop?" A conference for bishops will be held whenever the Permanent Commission deems it opportune. (Considering the various ongoing disasters I hope it's soon.)

In reference to the dire need to include culture, art appreciation, philosophy of art, concepts of heritage/patrimony, etc. in the regular curriculum of a seminary, Father Ted informs us that this is regulated by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports and the Holy See. Archbishop Marchisano who heads the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church, "published in October 1992 a circular letter detailing at length the topic on cultural heritage education in the seminary environment." It was sent to all the bishops throughout the world who we must charitably presume read the document. (Just as charitably, maybe they didn't understand it.)

Fr. Rene Javellana read a paper on education in the faith through cultural heritage during the first biennial in Bohol last 1999 and Father Ted also submitted a report to Bishop Tumulak on "the importance of having a syllabus design for including in the seminary curriculum the subject of cultural heritage at the philosophy and theology levels." One of the objectives at the Butuan conference was "to problematize the design of a syllabus for such a subject," a topic tabled for discussion during the regional meeting of church cultural workers in June 2002.

The Church listens even if one of our readers commented that "priests and bishops should be reminded once again that the sense of 'beauty' is also very close to the sense of 'holiness' and that it is not necessary for churches to look 'very poor and ugly' to immerse herself with the poor." He suggests that "each diocese...should have a commission on church projects composed of liturgists, artists, architects...to monitor those parish priests." (Maybe the songs and the singing will also improve.) Another reader bewailed the fact that a number of churches in the Visayas had retained their facades but "the interiors, particularly the sacristy and altars were replaced...old statues put down." The conclusion being that there is "a lack of religiosity among our bishops with respect to old churches."

Come to think of it, considering the disasters visited on our cities by their mayors, maybe it's not only seminarians and bishops who need a crash course on art, culture and heritage; maybe it's also the government!

Gobbledygook

YOUNGBLOOD

Diego A. Odchimar III

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I AM leaving law school. This is not the life that I want to live. I want to teach philosophy again.

Two months. That was how soon it took me to learn that law school is a personal hell. I was told that had I stayed longer it would have been a lot less difficult for me to get used to the daily grind of law school. I do not intend to distress myself any longer. This was not what I expected.

In grief as in derision, I could not close my mind and try hard not to question the laws, cases and judicial decisions that I was required to read and memorize day after day. I have always been full of questions particularly with regard to rights, discourse and justice in general. Quickly and quietly, I was disappointed. Law school is not a community of inquiry. The study of law is not an inquiry on the laws, cases and judicial decisions. Rather, it is a mastery of them.

Maybe I was not very interested in becoming a lawyer. Else I would have gladly done what I was required to do no matter how moot and academic. That is, memorize and recite the facts of the cases, the issues, the decisions held by the courts and the pertinent laws. The underlying assumption is that, as per the doctrine of *stare decisis* is concerned, these judicial decisions that form part of our judicial system are judicial precedents that should be the ground of future judicial decisions on cases where the facts are substantially the same. It is therefore imperative to memorize them. Worse, do it without question.

I find it defective because it draws away attention from the controversies at issue in cases and the ideological content of laws and legal education. It reduces the study of law into story-telling by rote memory. Worse, it hides the fact that some laws and judicial decisions are often conflicting and confusing.

I agree with Duncan Kennedy that legal education is a training for hierarchy and the reproduction of existing institutions. Some teachers employ subtle means to deny the oppressive realities of the hierarchy and the status quo. In the guise of academic freedom, they convince students that this is how it should be done in law school. They argue that students should learn how to retain large number of rules, how to spot issues, elementary case analysis and the pro/con policy arguments. These skills are taught badly by bullying the students into accepting as valid in particular cases arguments about laws and judicial decisions that are circular, beg the question, incoherent or so vague as to be meaningless. Sometimes they are merely arguments from authority. It's sad that some teachers persuade students that legal reasoning is distinct as a method for reaching results, from ethical and political discourse in general and from policy analysis. One teacher even told me to forget about philosophical inquiry.

Law school teaches these rudimentary, essential and instrumental skills in a way that almost completely mystifies almost all law students. Maybe, just maybe, I am wrong for having a denunciatory evaluation. But this was not how I thought I could most effectively help make our democracy functional.

Diego A. Odchimar III, 24, left the University of the Philippines College of Law after two months. He taught philosophy at the UP Los Baños, Laguna for two years.

Friend and enemy

Myrel Q. Mallari

I GOT scared of her when I first met her. She looked so serious. As if she were mad at everyone. She seldom smiled and she was always in her room. Most of the time I could hear her cry, and that made me more scared of her. We lived in the same boarding house. And every time I bumped into her, I got nervous. I didn't know if I should smile at her or I would just ignore her. But still, there was a small part of me that wanted to befriend her. So, that small part urged me to give her always my sweetest smile. And gladly, she always smiled back.

We became close friends when one of my roommates (we were four in a room) left. She moved into our room and occupied the vacant bed. From then on, we did things together: we ate dinner, we went to the mall for a movie, we went to the grocery and bought food for our midnight snacks, we watched plays in school and sometimes we went to the UP Sunken Garden to study, but we always ended up watching the cute guys jogging around the oval. The serious-looking girl I thought she was was a very funny person after all. Her sense of humor made our evenings enjoyable with never a dull moment to spare. When I became comfortable being with her, I started to share my secrets, even my deepest, dark secrets. She became my confidante and she was always there whenever I needed her. In other words, she became my older sister and my best friend.

But last January 2000, she ruined everything we had and shared. As I was looking at her album, which she created during the Christmas vacation, I saw her picture in which she was wearing my rubber shoes. I was dumbfounded by what I saw. The fear I felt when I first met her came running down my spine again. I could not move from where I was sitting. Then I started to think of what I should do. But I did not know what to think.

Then I thought of my mom, and suddenly her missing perfume, Eternity, which disappeared when I brought my so-called best friend to our home, came to my mind. So I turned the pages of the album and looked for a picture that was taken in her room. And when I found one, I searched for a bottle of Eternity. And there it was! Just behind her, near her picture frame and other perfumes. I did not know what to feel and think then. But I was trembling when she entered the room. But she did not notice it. Rather, she excitedly told me the story behind every picture. I could not remember how I managed to listen to her because deep inside me, I was beginning to doubt her, to fear her and to hate her.

When I told my mom about this, she advised me to talk to her or maybe send her a letter to inform her what I saw. But I could not do it. I thought nothing could change what had happened, what she did to me. Not even a letter or a talk with her. What she did was inexcusable. I could not remember anything bad I did to her. I had always been a good friend to her. I was there for her, like she was there for me. I could not think of any reason that made her do the things she did. I just told myself that maybe her past, which was full of problems and hardships, contributed or affected the way she behaved now. Until now, she is still my roommate. I am angry with her, but I am angrier with myself because I could not show her, or express to her what I truly felt. I do not trust her anymore. I do not share my secrets with her anymore. And I am more careful with my things now. I do not bring all my things to the boarding house, because some items might disappear again without my knowing it. I am not sure if she knows what I found out, but she changed a lot. She has become more thoughtful and concerned about me. She does everything that pleases me. She always agrees with what I say. And it scares me a lot. I do not know if I should accept her change as a sign of her repentance, or if she is planning another evil deed.

I used to envy her because she was a strong person despite the problems and hardships in her life. I wanted to be independent just like her. I wanted to get out from under my mom's very protective care. But after what happened, I have become very thankful for what I have now, especially my family, because once a person loses a family, she loses her self. And this, I believe, is what happened to her. Since she did not have a family to grow up with, and that is what a person needs in his/her development as a human being, my best friend, in need, became my enemy, indeed!

Myrel Q. Mallari, 20, is a fourth year English Studies student at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

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Was Garcia used as a pawn?

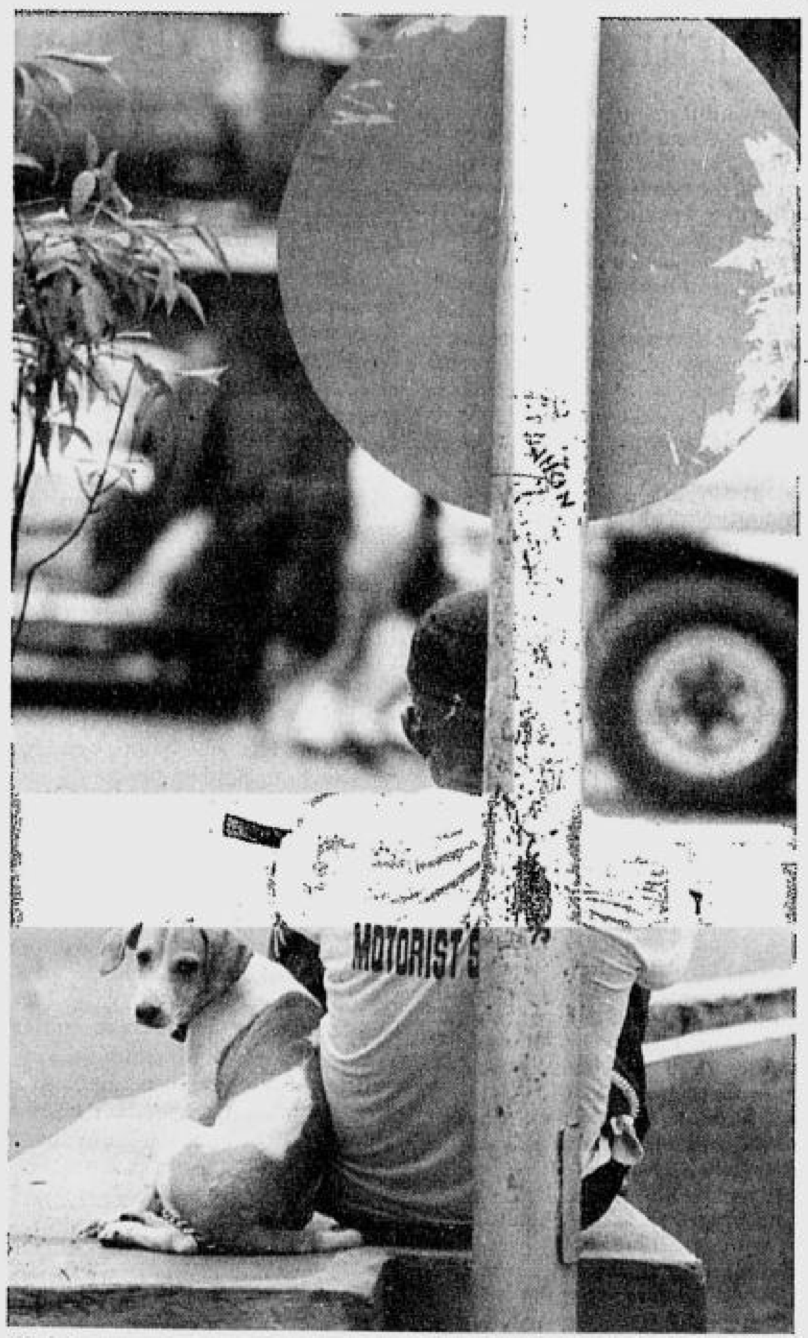
I READ with interest the letter of Melito Ricafrente regarding the dismissal of Ramon T. Garcia as president of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Unlike Ricafrente, who said that he neither buys nor sells stocks, I am a small player who has known Garcia from the time I began. While I have never met him personally, I think I know him and his standing in the industry.

It is precisely because of his solid reputation that I was surprised when I read about the press conference he called regarding the dispute between the PSE and Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., and began assailing not only Fort Bonifacio but also Manuel Pangilinan. That move seemed to be totally out of character. This is what has led some observers to wonder if Garcia was really the author of the stinging statement that was distributed during his press conference. The talk going around is that he may have allowed himself, wittingly or unwittingly, to be used as a pawn by someone who has an axe against the Fort Bonifacio people.

As a corporate man, I also could not appreciate the fact that Garcia did not clear the staging of the press conference and his statements against Fort Bonifacio and Pangilinan with the PSE Board of Governors. At the very least, I would have expected him to discuss this matter or write a memo to the PSE Board about his objections to Fort Bonifacio's proposals to revise the original agreement on the transfer of the PSE to Bonifacio City. He did neither, and instead of regarding the issue as an internal matter and dealing with it accordingly, he chose to grandstand. It's such a pity, as it was totally unbecoming of someone of his stature.

I have no interest, one way or the other, in the dispute between the PSE and Fort Bonifacio. What I have is regret over what Garcia did, and the consequence of his action. Now, he is being made to look like an underdog, a martyr for something that was of his own doing in the first place.—**PATRICK M. ELLA, 19 Mother Ignacia St., Quezon City**



No way to treat God's creatures

AS a person who has worked to help stray dogs in many countries, I found the reports of the treatment and capture of stray dogs for meat digusting and heartbreaking. It is no way to treat God's creatures and I pray that all caring people in your country will fight to eradicate this barbarism and help stray dogs instead of subjecting them to cruelty. They have suffered enough through the ignorance and total lack of feeling of some members of society who are not worthy of being called human beings and who have degenerated that title in many cases to inhumane beings.—**SUZANNE THORPE, 35 Bucknall Ave., Lincoln LN6 OBL England**

LETTERS

A great disappointment

IT comes as a great disappointment to many that the United States has gone ahead to try to save its hurt pride, in the process placing countless young lives on the line.

Don't we know that such arrogance can bring about its own comeuppance? It is a pity because despite its impressive achievements (or it because of them?), the United States hasn't learned to recognize human understanding and love as prerequisites to peaceful co-existence.

Now, we must ask ourselves if we are seeing the starting decline of another decadent society. Some weaknesses obviously must be faced if a transformation is to take place.—**ERNESTO K. MAGTOTO, Las Piñas City**

Artful Senator Lacson

SEN. PANFILO Lacson is very artful. He denies that he has numerous dollar accounts abroad. He takes advantage of his parliamentary privilege to avoid responsibility for all his statements in the Senate.

And now, he is putting up an appearance of decency by rising on a matter of privilege as a member of the Senate to denounce First Gentleman Mike Arroyo involving the release of Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office funds.

But the squid tactics of the neophyte senator in trying to appear white by painting the other fellow black has not diminished the attention of the people to his money-laundering activities and the violation of human rights during his heyday in the Estrada administration. I can't trust him.—**RAMON L. BOISER, 143 Batulao Rd., Central Park, Davao City**

Insincere generosity insults the poor

COMMENTARY

Ana Marie O. Dizon
Institute on Church and Social Issues

IN THE MORNING of Aug. 29, some 200 urban poor residents of Parola, Tondo and members of the Nagkakaisang Samahan sa Parola converged on the grounds of the Manila Cathedral not to demonstrate against the cardinal but to pray. They prayed for a lot of things but most of all, they prayed that government and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo fulfill the promises she made while courting the support and allegiance of the poor to her new administration, including her promise of giving the land in Parola to its residents last May 13.

During the months since her swearing into office as President of the Republic and after the siege of Malacañang last May 1, President Macapagal has been seen and packaged as a leader who genuinely seeks the mandate of the urban poor who are known to be the avid supporter of her predecessor. As proof, she visited many informal communities not only in the known bailiwick of former President Estrada in Metro Manila but also in other cities in the region, where she announced the government's programs for the poor and made numerous public land proclamations that would benefit informal settlers occupying these lands.

However, as it turned out, the necessary staff work to clearly identify, delineate boundaries and clarify the processes involved in carrying out such proclamations was not completed prior to its public announcements. Some are in fact without a clear land area, technical description, or even a clear legal basis. As a result, the intended beneficiaries are feeling both lost and uncertain about the status of their land proclamations, sentiments expressed by community leaders from proclaimed areas in Cebu, Bicol and Metro Manila in a meeting organized by the Urban Poor Colloquium (UPC) held last Sept. 3, 2001. Others are in doubt whether the whole thing was for real or only for show.

The vagueness of the promises and the experience of being referred to various offices such as the HUDCC, PCUP, PPA, DENR, NAPC and the Malacañang Office for Special Concerns, none of which could produce a copy of the proclamation, only heightened the people's suspicion and feelings of vulnerability. "We already went to all these agencies to ask for a copy of the land proclamation and we are confused that none of them have it," says Aling Violeta of Parola.

Time and again from Marcos to Estrada and now with Ms Macapagal, government people and politicians have been guilty of treating the poor in a patronizing manner that only highlights their powerlessness, treating them as a collectivity of people whose only value lies in providing the numbers during election and in times of political instability. They are often not taken seriously or consulted in such a way that their constraints and special circumstances are considered in policymaking and in designing programs. They experience not only material deprivation but hunger for information that could help them understand their situation better and do something about it.

Over the years the issuance of presidential proclamations has been seen as a quick method of formalizing informal residents' claim on the land where they have settled for a long time. However, it is also one of the most problematic means since the necessary paperwork and administration of land disposition take a long time to accomplish aside from the problem of finding the necessary funding for the introduction of development into the area. In a number of instances, previous proclamations have been amended, altered or revoked by succeeding proclamations even before they had been implemented. As a result, some proclamations come into conflict with other orders, guidelines and laws, resulting in greater confusion not only among government agencies but, most especially, among the community people concerned.

This is very much the issue in the Fort Bonifacio case where various proclamations have left the people confused in their claim and struggle to have their own place inside the former military camp against the development interest of the BCDA and its private investors. While the issue is still awaiting resolution, the hostility and resentment often erupt in violence between the residents who feel cheated and those carrying out demolitions. In other places, the lack of real interest in implementing such proclamations only benefits squatting syndicates who have taken upon themselves the subdivision and disposition of land, victimizing the urban poor who thought that finally they could get out of their insecure station as squatters.

Community people from the various proclaimed areas in Cebu, Bicol and Metro Manila who attended the Sept. 3 meeting are also concerned that the confusion resulting from the vague and crudely prepared proclamations would not stop any future effort to remove them since the areas are not properly identified. Or worse, because of false expectations, rivalry among their fellow poor residents will be heightened in anticipation of who will be included as beneficiaries. Thus, although in some ways they felt that they have attained some degree of security with the proclamation, on the other hand, they are still in doubt, asking themselves if they will ever own the land. At the moment, they are only hoping that they have not been fooled.

Ten years ago, Michael Pinches, an urban sociologist, wrote about the poor people of Tatalon and their experience of poverty and shame. He tells about the institution of inequality that denies poor people access to status, wealth and opportunity. They have an acute sensitivity to the fact that society sees them as expendable people who can be manipulated through an act of presidential generosity and cultivation of moral indebtedness as was the case during the time of Marcos. Through it all, the oppression and lack of a serious attempt to help them have not been lost on the poor where feelings of resentment and hostility have been aroused. Hopefully, the government will learn the lesson of recent history and realize that the poor should be their main constituency. And showing this involves sincerity, transparency and a venue for genuine participation and empowerment, not conspicuous generosity or cultivation of political debts as a contingency strategy to quell short-term threats.

Why executive sessions for Senator Cayetano

THE SENATE committee on ethics, where I sit as chair, has been conducting sessions on the complaint filed against Sen. Rene Cayetano. The decision to conduct executive sessions on the case was a consensus among both the majority and minority members of the Senate.

The committee is aware that there are requests to make public the proceedings of the case, similar to those conducted by other committees such as the blue ribbon, public order and illegal drugs and national defense and security.

However, the ethics committee, unlike the other committees, is a quasi-judicial body and a disciplinary tribunal. It is imperative that we preserve the solemnity and impartiality of the body. By holding the hearings in private and behind closed doors, we are able to remain as independent as possible, free from the complications presented by media presence. We believe that executive sessions will prove most effective and would help us define proper procedures in fleshing out the issue without unduly jeopardizing the integrity of the Senate.

The Supreme Court, in the case of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, et al. vs. Joseph Estrada, et al., in weighing out the constitutional guarantees of freedom of the press and the right to public information, on the one hand, and the fundamental rights of the accused, on the other hand, along with the constitutional power of a court to control its proceedings in ensuring a fair and impartial trial, ruled and I quote, "when these rights race against one another, jurisprudence tells us that the right of the accused must be preferred to win."

Further, citing the American case Estes vs. Texas, wherein the US Supreme Court held that television coverage of judicial proceedings involves an inherent denial of the due process rights of a defendant.

It determined the following prejudices: (1) experience has established the prejudicial effect of telecasting on witnesses. Witnesses might be frightened, play to the camera, or become nervous. They are subject to extraordinary out-of-court influences, which might affect their testimony; (2) telecasting not only increases the trial judge's responsibility to avoid actual prejudice to the defendant, it may as well affect his own performance. Judges are human beings also and are subject to the same psychological reactions as laymen; (3) for the defendant, telecasting is a form of mental harassment and subjects him to excessive public exposure and distracts him from the effective presentation of his defense; (4) the television camera is a powerful weapon, which intentionally or inadvertently can destroy an accused and his case in the eyes of the public.

Cayetano just happens to be a member of the majority. If an opposition member was under investigation, we would apply the same set of rules.—**SEN. FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN, 5th Floor, GSIS Bldg., Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City**

Stressing the obvious

AN ITEM in your Letters to the Editor section dated Sept. 29, 2001 is a misrepresentation. I am referring to the letter titled "Veterans getting higher pension."

The Philippine Veterans Affairs Office is in the habit of stressing what is obvious. It claims that old age payments are now higher. But the fact is that this year it has not paid the full amount of P4,500 although Republic Act 7669 provides that old age pensions shall increase by P500 every year until the full amount of P5,000 is attained. When the PVAO added P500 last August, it made it appear that it increased our pensions when in fact the PVAO was just paying what is due us under the law. We do not want to sound ungrateful but we need to get the full benefit provided by law.—**F. CEDULA, vice national commander, Philippine Veterans Legion, PVAO Compound, J. Villegas Street, Ermita, Manila**

Only CES eligibles can get Ceso rank

WE would like to issue some clarifications on a letter written by W. Benny P. de Guzman regarding the appointments of Emma Rosqueta and Gil Valera as deputy commissioners of the Bureau of Customs, which was published in your paper last Oct. 1, 2001.

De Guzman said that "under the rules and regulations of the Career Executive Service Board...an appointee to a career executive position who is already 55 years old need not take the Ceso examination...She is not required to take the Ceso examination to be entitled to security of tenure."

May we refer you to the provision of CESB Circular No. 1 dated Dec. 15, 1989, stating that an applicant for the examination—which by the way is called Management Aptitude Test Battery (MATB)—"must not be over 55 years old of age except that in the case of incumbents of CES positions, he must not be over 60 years of age, at the time of the examination." But let us point out that those who are disqualified from taking the MATB for reason of age do not necessarily acquire security of tenure.

Regardless, in Resolution No. 330, dated Feb. 26, 2001, the CESB dropped the age limit from the set of criteria for an executive to be allowed to take the MATB.

In any case, taking and passing the MATB, the first stage of the CES eligibility examination process, does not in any way entitle an official to security of tenure. After the MATB, a candidate is required to undergo assessment, an interview with a member of the CES board and the validation of on-the-job performance. In addition, he must also undergo a briefing on the CES. It is only after passing the CES eligibility process when a candidate can be conferred CES eligibility and thus join the roster of CES eligibles.

A CES eligible occupying a CES position and who meets the other requirements for appointment to a rank in the CES shall be recommended by the CES Board to the President.

Further, the mere appointment to or having occupied a CES position for any length of time does not make an official a career executive service officer (Ceso). He has the status of an incumbent of a CES position only. An official becomes a Ceso once he is appointed to a CES rank by the President upon the recommendation of the CESB and that only CES eligibles may be endorsed for rank appointment.—**NORMITA L. VILLANUEVA, Ceso II, executive director, Career Executive Service Board, 3 Marcelino St., Holy Spirit Drive, Quezon City**

Nothing but bad news

WHENEVER I read the INQUIRER, which is every day, I often skip the front page, where all the important news is, because the news is always the same. It's always about the crimes Sen. Panfilo Lacson allegedly committed, Mary "Rosebud" Ong's evidence, the Abu Sayyaf, etc.

Isn't there anything good happening in our country? Will there still be a day when we, the youth, can read good news about our country's economy, our politicians and nothing about graft, corruption and poverty?

I hope that sometimes I would see headlines and news that will make me feel proud to be a Filipino. I know that you have to publish the most important and "hottest" news, but aren't there better things that you can publish? I hope that one day I can read the newspaper without thinking or even exclaiming, "*Ito na naman*!" or "*Palagi namang ganyan*!"—**ANGELA AZALEA L. DALUMPINES, 5-2 Adams St., San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City**

WE just report the news, we don't make it. If you see a lot of bad news on the front page, it's because a lot of bad things are happening in our country. But we do publish good news, too.—**The Editors**

Consider Pag-IBIG service rates

THE GOVERNMENT'S aggressive campaign of providing shelter to the low-salaried government and private sector employees through the Pag-IBIG Fund is impressive and encouraging. But is the government really sincere?

The Pag-IBIG-sponsored seminar which I attended recently as a requirement in the processing of my housing loan made me understand that Pag-IBIG members are being fooled and have been deprived of their rights to fully enjoy the benefits of their contributions. I learned that the Pag-IBIG is charging an administrative fee of 5 percent based on the loanable amount. Moreover, a fixed interest rate of 16 percent will be applied for houses costing more than P375,000.

These may not be alarming to some, but as a banker I can easily spot the difference. Commercial banks don't charge administrative fees, and the prevailing interest rates for housing loans only range from 11 percent to 15 percent. In my case, I was planning to acquire decent and quality low-cost housing which, at the present time in Cebu, would cost around P500,000. Where will I get the P25,000 (5 percent of P500,000) administrative fee once my housing loan application is approved? Where will the 5 percent administrative fee go? Why can't the Pag-IBIG apply a fixed interest rate of 12 percent to be reasonable considering that funding is sourced from members' contributions?

No wonder government appointees occupying key positions in the Pag-IBIG are receiving fat salaries. Is this another case of officials "acting like the stepsisters of Cinderella who took the latter's wealth and made her life miserable" (as described by Commission on Audit general counsel Santos Alquizala to Government Service Insurance System officials)? Shame on these officials who enriched themselves at the expense of the ordinary members.

This should be a challenge to Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council chair Mike Defensor, concurrent chair of the Pag-IBIG board of trustees, to revise the guidelines of the housing facility that is the Pag-IBIG Fund in order to benefit most of the members.—**NAME WITHHELD ON REQUEST, Mandaue City**

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

US: States like Syria could be next targets

A PIECE of a building is lifted by a crane from the ruins at ground zero as work continues Oct. 11 in New York while the sun rises one month after the attacks on the World Trade Center. REUTERS

WASHINGTON—The United States said on Thursday it could take military action against countries like Syria later in its campaign against terrorism if they do not comply with the demands of Washington and its allies.

Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage also told reporters the targets in the campaign include all groups that threaten the interests of the United States and US allies.

In a later news conference, President George W. Bush said the United States took Syrian offers of help in the fight against terrorism seriously but wanted to see results, not just words.

"The Syrians have talked to us about how they can help in the war against terrorism. We take that seriously and we'll give them an opportunity to do so," Bush said.

But he added: "I'm a performance-oriented person. I believe in results."

The United States says it is concentrating for the moment on its attacks on the Taliban rulers of Afghanistan and Osama bin Laden's al Qaida organization, which it blames for the Sept. 11 suicide attacks on New York and Washington.

"Ones (organizations) that are trying to hurt allied and US interests, I think that's in the main where we will concentrate next," he said. "We know who has global reach and is a threat to the United States and our allies."

Asked what the consequences would be if countries like Syria do not meet US expectations, he said: "The consequences might be whatever the coalition finds worthy and it runs the gamut from isolation to financial investigations, all the way up through possibly military action."

The United States has Syria on its list of "state sponsors of terrorism" because it hosts Lebanese and Palestinian organizations that attack US ally Israel.

Syria says the international community should distinguish between terrorism and groups fighting to free occupied land. *Reuters*

Let us support the program of preventing congestion in Metro Manila Schools by encouraging the creation of more schools in the provinces.

DECS Secretary, RAUL S. ROCO pour champagne to IAU's newly acquired training aircraft, assisted by IAU Chairman, Dr. Jovenal B. Toring.

IAU
INDIANA AEROSPACE UNIVERSITY
(Asia's Biggest Catholic Centered Aerospace University)
And
Ricardo Cardinal J. Vidal Scholarship Program

Announce the entrance examination for scholarship and non scholarship programs 2nd semester 2001-2002. We advise new enrollees to see for themselves our training aircraft and the 10-hectare Mactan school campus before enrolling on the ff. courses:

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- BS in Tourism and Travel Management
- BS in Computer Science
- BS in Customs Administration
- BS in Hotel and Restaurant Management
- BS in Criminology major in Aviation and Airport Security
- BS in Airline Management (Including Flight Stewarding Course)

To decongest Metro Manila, students enrolling at IAU Teachers College (BEED, BSED) Indiana College of Law and Indiana Catholic High School, Elementary and Grade School education will enjoy educational incentives plus employment opportunities after graduation. Students who wish to avail of the program must get in touch with:

For Scholarship Program
The Secretariat, St. Therese of Lisieux Church
IAU Town Center,Basak, Lapu-Lapu City

For Non Scholarship Program
IAU, Makati Office, G-IV Gallery Bldg., Amorsolo St.,
Makati City Tel. 818-5696; Cell 0915-2049455

School Site:
Gen. Aviation Road, Magellan Business Park, Island of Mactan, Cebu, Philippines
Tel. Nos. (032) 340-0745 & 341-0201 • Telefax: (032) 340-0771
E-mail : indiana@cebu.pw.net.ph • Cell No.: 0915-2049455

New York reflects on month that changed the city

BY PAUL THOMASCH

NEW YORK—A month ago, Rachel Surat rode the rush-hour express bus to her office next to the World Trade Center, ate lunch in the complex and shopped in its underground mall. Sept. 11 changed all that.

"It's not the same city," said Surat, who like many New Yorkers, struggles with nightmares of the suicide plane attacks and rises an hour earlier to cope with commuting delays caused by unheard of security. She packs her own lunch, since the restaurants she once frequented were destroyed along with the 110-story twin towers.

Surat celebrated her 22nd birthday on Thursday, exactly one month after the attacks that killed more than 5,000 people and rained hundreds of thousands of tons of concrete, steel and glass on New York's financial district.

Now when she arrives at work, she is greeted by US soldiers and police at a barricade, one of the many new sights, sounds or smells that serve as everyday reminders of the attack that altered the famous Manhattan skyline and emotionally scarred the city's 8 million residents.

Flags stream from windows. Police and fire sirens wail as bomb scares evacuate buildings. Smoke drifts over the 16-acre site where the complex once stood, choking the air with an unbearable smell of burning rubber, plastic and steel.

"Every day, I come out of the train station and you can smell the smoke," said Mark Carrasquillo, an insurance broker in lower Manhattan.

"The smell of it . . . " he said, his voice trailing off.

The New York Stock Exchange has been open for weeks, but many traders are working from hotel rooms or makeshift offices throughout the city or in neighboring New Jersey across the Hudson River. Thousands of other workers have lost their jobs. The cost of the recovery and rebuilding has been estimated by state officials at $34 billion.

In the month since the city's worst human and economic disaster, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani has urged New Yorkers to pick up where they left off on the morning of Sept. 11 before two hijacked aircraft struck the towers.

They have—and yet they haven't.

Many are haunted by the destruction. At Stack and Stack, a bar blocks away from the disaster site, customers fall into fits of silence during unusually heavy rounds of drinking.

"At those times you don't have to say a word," said owner Theresa Gaspar. "Everyone knows what's going on. People are distressed and they're getting hammered."

Red Cross mental health counselors and other psychotherapists have been in demand, in their private practices and office buildings all over the city.

On a clear, skyblue day eerily similar to the Tuesday in September when the city and the rest of country was forever changed, Giuliani on Thursday led recovery crews in a simple memorial ceremony for the dead.

"They attempted to break our spirit, but instead they emboldened it," Giuliani said amid the ruins that mark the worst attack on US soil.

Giuliani later urged voters to cast their ballots in the Democratic primary run-off to choose New York's next mayor, who will take over the massive effort to reconstruct buildings, shore up a shattered economy and calm frayed nerves.

For those reasons, the run-off between Public Advocate Mark Green and Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer has become one of the most important in the city's history. Democrats outnumber Republicans by five-to-one, so Thursday's winner is most likely to become the next incumbent of City Hall.

At the corner of Broadway and Cedar Street, crowds gather daily, watching and snapping pictures as bulldozers plow through the rubble and trucks haul away loads from a site estimated to contain up to 1.2 million tons of debris and human remains.

"I wanted to come here, it was important to me," Isabelle Bacon said, standing near the world's largest crime scene. "I felt I had to come here to experience what really happened."

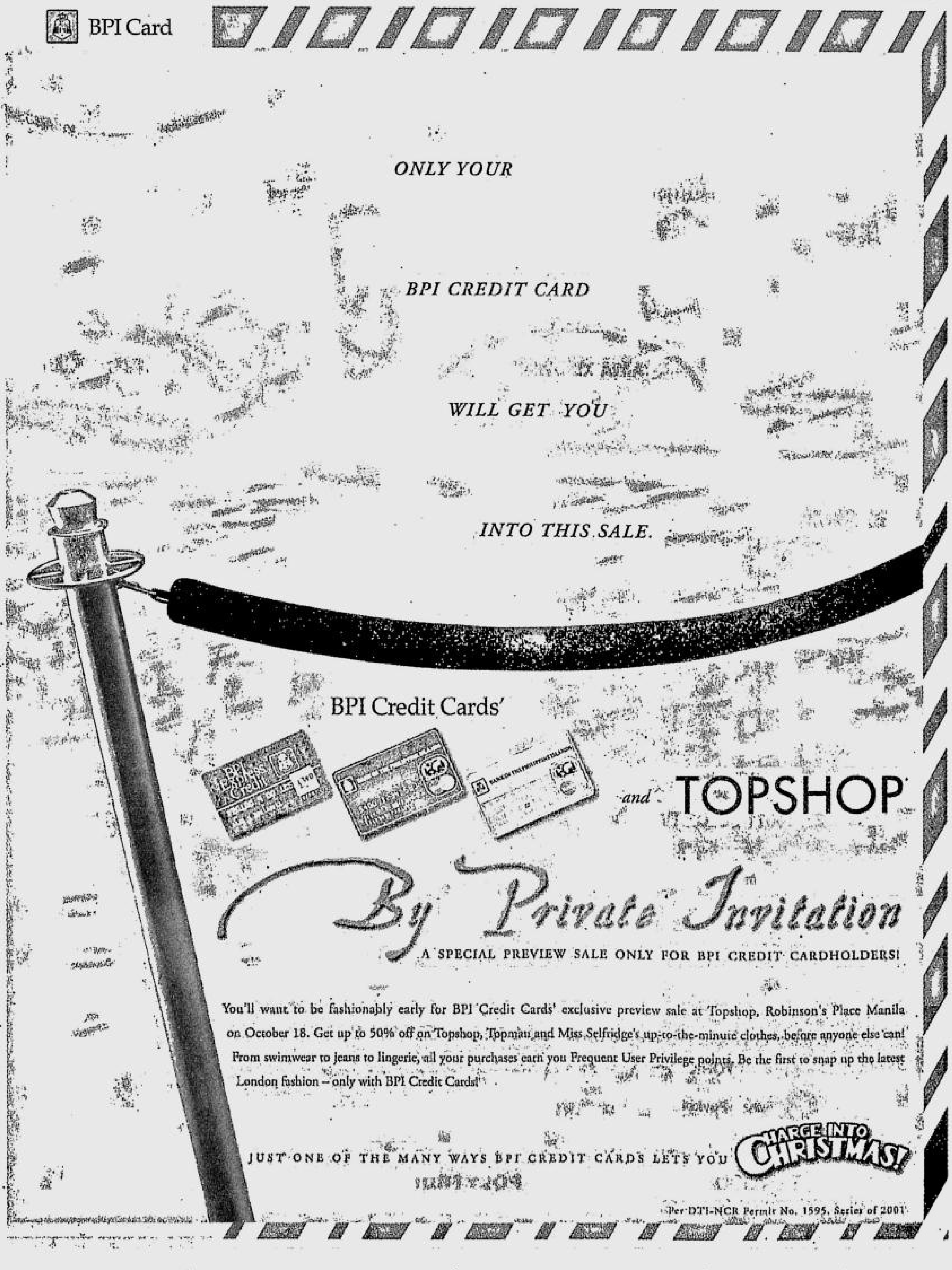
It has also been a month of daily funerals and memorial services for victims whose bodies may never be found. The city has mourned the loss of some of its leading fire fighters and businessmen and businesswomen. Some of their pictures can be seen on walls, bus stops, telephone booths and a family resource center where they are forlornly posted as "Missing."

A few miles north at Pennsylvania Station in midtown Manhattan, a 30-meter-wide red, white, and blue memorial contains messages of support and pictures of those lost in the attack. Some of the victims were commuters from the suburbs who passed through the station on their way to work.

"We love and miss you," reads one for Joyce Carpento, who worked on the 105th floor of one of the towers.

Many of the commuters rushing through the station—trying to catch subways, which are still running irregularly—wear flag pins on their labels. New Yorker Louis Silano said he would wear his pin "until this thing is over." *Reuters*

WAR without borders



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CITIBANK

AN AFGHAN child refugee takes cover under a homemade shelter during a heavy downpour on the outskirts of Islamabad Oct. 11. REUTERS

US raids traumatize Afghan kids

KABUL—Sadeq is like any other five-year-old boy—inquisitive and talkative, spending his days exploring his surroundings with the boundless energy all youngsters have.

But as soon as night falls, he changes. The sound of an airplane turns him into a frozen statue. The noise of an explosion triggers a frenzy of shivering.

"The doctors have assured me that he will be all right,"

says his mother, sitting beside him at a hospital in the Afghan capital on Friday. "I really hope so, I am so worried."

Sadeq was just preparing for bed three nights ago when a bomb dropped in the US-led air raids on Afghanistan landed near the family's home in the capital.

In the noise, dust and confusion that followed, Sadeq went into shock.

"For several hours Sadeq . . . wept and wailed," said his mother, clutching the traditional all-enveloping Afghan burqa around her like a child would a security blanket.

"It was night-time and we could not help him. For a while he fainted and the next day he had forgotten his name," she said.

Sitting on his bed at a hospital in the Afghan capital on Friday, Sadeq was smiling again, enjoying a lull after five nights of continuous raids on the capital.

"We were forced to bring him to this hospital and now he laughs . . . but when the strike starts he shivers again and weeps," his mother said.

The family will take him home later on Friday despite doctors saying he was nowhere near recovered from the ordeal.

They have little to treat him with, anyway.

Like every other hospital in Afghanistan, this one lacks even the most basic medicines and medical equipment. Despite the best intentions of doctors and staff, sanitation is a problem and electricity supplies intermittent at best.

Conditions are so bad, most people prefer simply to discharge themselves or their relatives.

"He was telling me that he wants to go home and we prefer him to go as the horror of planes flying over and the explosions with the darkness when the power is cut may bring back his shock," Sadeq's mother said.

"We hope that at home he will be in contact with his family members and there will be no more bombs in his area."

"We can't help him here in the darkness of night from the explosions," the doctor said. "We just hope . . . that by sending him home, he will be safe from other side."

While Sadeq's mental scars may take time to heal, he is luckier than some.

The doctor said he had just discharged a badly injured teenage girl after her father said he thought it was too dangerous in the hospital.

"She was 15 and tried to pick up food packets dropped by American planes when she hit a land mine," the doctor said.

"Her father decided to take her with her fresh wounds because of the fear of the bombardments in Kabul." *Reuters*

US leaders no different from Taliban–Khatami

TEHRAN—Iranian President Mohammad Khatami accused US officials and Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia of being "two sides of the same coin," the state Irna news agency reported yesterday.

"Two superficially opposing voices are heard in America and Afghanistan, which in fact are the two sides of the same coin," Khatami said during talks Thursday with Canadian ambassador to Tehran Michel de Salaberry, cited by Irna.

"One says whoever is not with America is a terrorist and the other says whoever does not accept this behavior is an opponent of Islam and a proponent of America," the moderate head of state said.

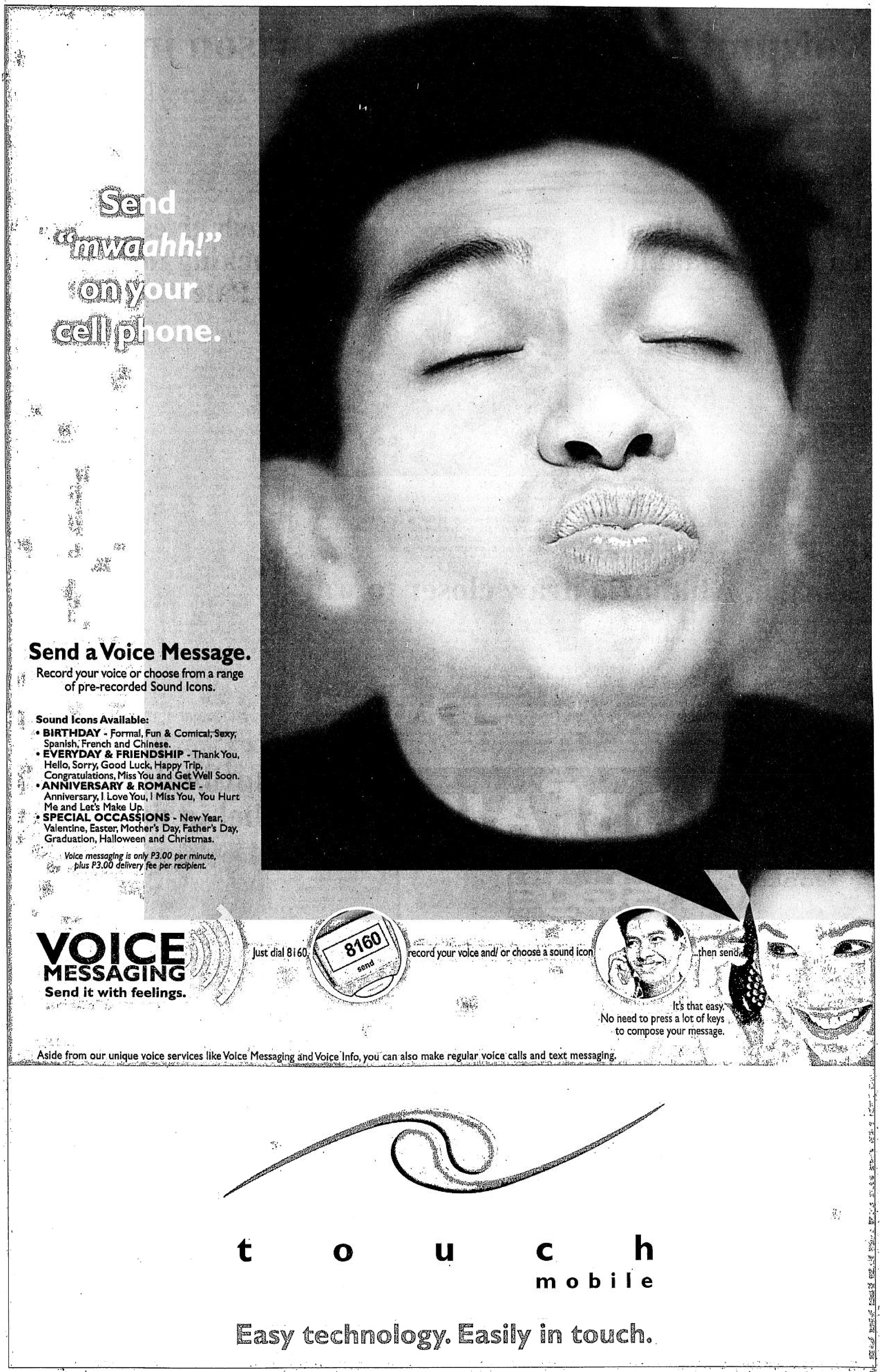
"Such false and arrogant judgements are the root cause of violence and terror as well as war," Khatami said.

On Thursday, Khatami, whose country has vehemently condemned the US and British military strikes against neighboring Afghanistan, also warned that the attacks risk damaging the war on terrorism.

"The large scale operations launched by the United States could divert the struggle against terrorism away from its true path," Khatami said, according to state television.

"The American people have been the victims of terrorist crimes, but the innocent people of Afghanistan are victims of a twin oppression: that of their ignorant leaders and that which the United States is inflicting on them today," he said.

Iran was swift to condemn the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States but is also opposed to the US-led military strikes against Afghanistan for harboring the prime suspect Osama bin Laden. *AFP*



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Koizumi to visit Japan war prison in Seoul

SEOUL—Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi will go to a notorious prison from his country's occupation of Korea when he visits Seoul next Monday, officials said.

Koizumi's schedule for the one-day visit intended to improve relations between the neighbors was released Friday as South Korea's foreign minister summoned the Japanese ambassador over a fishing dispute.

Koizumi will become the first Japanese leader to visit the Seodaemun Prison History Hall in Seoul, a symbol of his country's brutal rule of the Korean peninsula from 1910-1945.

"The Japanese leader will be closely watched by all South Koreans during his landmark visit here," said Chon Won-bae, a city official in charge of the former prison that was used to torture and execute inmates,

"All South Koreans may want to see him to kneel down and apologize for what Japan did to us in the past," he added.

The museum includes rooms, which display gruesome reenactments of jailed Korean independence activists being tortured by the Japanese Army and Police.

Koizumi wants to end a diplomatic row over Japanese history textbooks accused of whitewashing Japan's past aggression, and his visit in August to a Tokyo shrine honoring convicted war criminals.

Seoul officials said the Japanese leader will look around a second floor exhibition room and visit a monument honoring deceased Korean independence fighters.

But Japanese Embassy staff refused to agree take Koizumi to underground exhibition rooms where the torture of South Korean activists by Japanese colonial police is re-enacted, said the museum official.

The Japanese built the prison in 1908, before officially annexing Korea. It was used to imprison, torture and execute Korean independence activists for over three decades until Japan lost World War II in 1945.

The museum was turned into a museum in 1998. And now, attracts many Japanese tourists.

The South Korean government snubbed Japan's requests for a Koizumi visit until this month when Japanese officials indicated that the Japanese leader wanted to make "sincere" efforts to mend relations.

But the two sides have now a fresh row over Japan's plan to block South Korean fishing boats from waters off the disputed Kuril islands.

South Korea's Foreign Minister Han Seung-soo on Friday summoned the Russian and Japanese ambassadors to complain over a reported Moscow-Tokyo fishing deal, officials said.

Han met the Russian ambassador Teymuraz Ramishvili to express disappointment and regret over a reported Russian deal with Japan seeking to ban South Korean fishing boats from around the disputed Kuril Islands, Yonhap news agency said.

He later called in the Japanese ambassador Terusuke Terada, officials said. Terada was also summoned on Monday to hear concerns from Seoul's vice foreign minister. *AFP*

Pyongyang calls off reunions of families

SEOUL—North Korea yesterday called off planned reunions of families kept apart since the Korean War, sparking official protests and tears amongst elderly South Koreans wanting to see long-lost relatives.

The three-day reunions were to start next Tuesday but communist North Korea said the rival South had implemented dangerously high security using the terrorism attacks in the United States as an excuse.

North Korea said in a statement that South Korea had put its Army and Police on top alert "under the pretext of what is happening abroad, thus creating an unpredictable atmosphere of tension."

"In such a tense atmosphere of alertness, smooth dialogue and travel cannot be expected nor can there by any guarantee that an accidental event would not take place," said the state Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland.

One hundred South Koreans were to fly to Pyongyang and 100 North Koreans come to Seoul for the fourth round of reunions since President Kim Dae-jung held a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-il in June last year.

South Korea warned that the cancellation could affect future aid donations to the North.

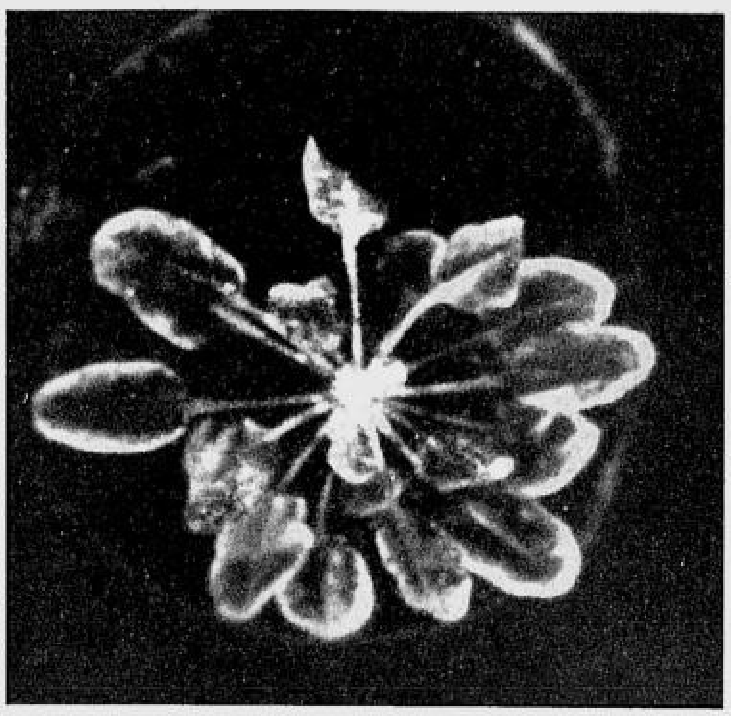
Unification Minister Hong Soon-young made a strong protest in a telephone message to his North Korean counterpart Kim Ryong-song, the ministry said.

"We cannot help but be concerned about the outcome of future inter-Korean ministerial and economic cooperation meetings should the exchange visits of separated family members be put off in spite of the fact that it was an important agreement between the two Koreas," Hoon said.

South Korea's tightened security cannot be the reason for North Korea to postpone the visits, he added.

President Kim, whose "Sunshine Policy" of engagement with the North has come under intense opposition pressure, was more restrained. He said "the government must express a clear position against the postponement," according to a spokesperson.

Relatives were in shock after being told they could not go on the three-day trip. The South's Red Cross Society was besieged by calls from distraught members of the South's delegation, officials said. *AFP*



'CRYING' PLANT AFP

A University of Leeds handout picture released Oct. 11 of a plant which lights up when it is damaged or feeling stress—taken 1.5 hours after two of its leaves were wounded by cutting. The light is shown as the pale areas in the picture. Researchers bonded DNA from thale cress with DNA from a firefly, and produced a plant which glows faintly when stressed, such as in poor light or with too much heat.

Bush gives stronger backing for creation of Palestinian state

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush on Thursday gave his strongest support to date for the creation of a Palestinian state if it left Israel in peace.

Bush told a news conference his backing depended on the start of a peace process based on a plan outlined by former Sen. George Mitchell that calls for a ceasefire and confidence-building measures leading up to peace talks.

"I also stated the other day that if we ever get into the Mitchell process where we can start discussing a political solution in the Middle East that I believe there ought to be a Palestinian state, the boundaries of which would be negotiated by the parties, so long as the Palestinian state recognizes the right of Israel to exist and will treat Israel with respect and will be peaceful on her borders," he said.

On Oct. 2, Bush used somewhat vaguer language, saying, "the idea of a Palestinian state has always been a part of a vision, so long as the right of Israel to exist is respected."

Bush said that he hoped Palestinian President Yasser Arafat was making an effort to reduce violence in the Middle East and declined to say if he would meet the Palestinian leader.

"If I am convinced that a meeting with a particular party at this point in time will further the process, I will do so. If it turns out to be an empty photo opportunity that creates expectations that will become dashed, I won't meet," he said.

"I hope progress is being made. I was pleased to see that Mr. Arafat is trying to control the radical elements within the Palestinian Authority. I think the world ought to applaud him for that.

"I hope he's taking measures necessary to reduce the violence in the Middle East so that we can get into the Mitchell process. We're working hard on the topic," he added.

In Jerusalem, Arab countries have piled on the pressure for an Israel-Palestinian settlement as part of efforts to stem international terrorism, as Palestinian police were ordered to adopt a hands-off approach to possible anti-US protests on Friday.

There was a significant drop in the level of violence after explosive internal Palestinian strife on Monday, when Palestinian police and Islamist demonstrators fought running street battles as security forces engaged in a heavy-handed crackdown on an anti-US rally in Gaza City.

In the latest unrest, two Palestinians and an Israeli motorist were shot and wounded in separate attacks in the West Bank late Thursday, an Israeli military spokesperson said.

And the dismembered body of an activist of the Palestinian hardline group Hamas was found on the outskirts of the West Bank town of Nablus, a Palestinian security official said.

The Israeli Army said the man, 23-year-old Hani Rawajbeh, had been blown up Wednesday by his own device as he tried to plant a bomb on a road used by troops and settlers.

His death brought the toll of almost 13 months of conflict to 873, including 674 Palestinians and 176 Israelis.

An official from Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office, meanwhile, said that the premier would visit the United States early next month. Washington has been pressing for the ceasefire to be consolidated.

Sharon met with his Foreign Minister Shimon Peres late Thursday to discuss the situation in the Palestinian territories and implementation of the shaky truce agreed with the Palestinians on Sept. 26, Israeli TV said. *Reuters and AFP*

Georgia, Abkhazia draw closer to war

TBILISI—Georgia and the breakaway region of Abkhazia moved closer to war Thursday as guerrillas attacked Russian peacekeeping forces in Georgia near the "border" with the rebel area, after Tbilisi had called on the Russians to withdraw.

Earlier in the day, Abkhaz attack helicopters bombed Chechen and Georgian positions in the border Kodor Gorge region of Abkhazia, while Tbilisi sent reinforcements to the unofficial border with the breakaway republic.

Fighters shot at Russian peacekeepers in Georgia near the "border," Abkhaz deputy "Defense Minister" Garry Kupalba said early Friday.

"The guerrillas attempted to enter Abkhazia but the Russian soldiers opened fire and repelled them," Kupalba said, without giving details of the fighters' identity.

He added that he did not know whether there had been casualties.

Abkhazia claimed de-facto independence from Georgia in 1993 after a war in the early 1990s in which the separatists were supported by Moscow.

After the end of the war, Russia sent peacekeepers to Abkhazia and to a security zone in Georgia along its "border" with the separatist region.

The Georgian parliament voted Thursday on a resolution calling for the "immediate withdrawal" of Russian peacekeeping troops from conflict areas in Abkhazia, its press service said.

Lawmakers asked Georgian President Eduard Shevarnadze to take "all necessary steps to enforce this resolution."

Tension mounted between Sukhumi and Tbilisi Thursday after Abkhaz armed forces bombed Chechen and Georgian positions in the border Kodor Gorge region of Abkhazia.

"Thursday, Abkhaz forces used, for the first time, MI-8 attack helicopters to bomb guerrilla positions in the Kodor Gorge," Abkhazia's "deputy defense minister" Vyacheslav Ankvab said.

"The terrorists suffered heavy losses," Garry Kupalba told the Interfax news agency.

Georgia had earlier sent troops to the Kodor Gorge on the unofficial border, drawing a warning from separatist leaders that the move was "a step toward war." *AFP*

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'Incorruptible' Naipaul wins Nobel in literature

By Hillel Italie

NEW YORK—Sir V.S. Naipaul, who with elegant, uncompromising calm has critiqued the ideals of everything from Islam to postcolonial life, won the Nobel Prize in literature.

V.S. NAIPAUL

"I thought I was no longer in the running, you know? I thought I had fallen away," the 69-year-old novelist and essayist said in an interview Thursday from his home in Wiltshire, England.

Naipaul, long rumored as a Nobel candidate, is the first writer of Indian descent to win since Rabindranath Tagore in 1913. He said receiving the prize Thursday was a "tribute both to India, my ancestors' land, and to other countries in the subcontinent."

Best known for the novels "A Bend in the River" and "A House for Mr. Biswas," Naipaul was born in Trinidad and moved to England to study at Oxford. He used the West Indian island as his first subject and then extended his writings to include India, Africa, North America and the Islamic communities of Asia.

British author Martin Amis said Thursday he was delighted by Naipaul's win.

"His level of perception is of the highest, and his prose has become the perfect instrument for realizing those perceptions on the page," Amis said, adding that Naipaul's travel writing "is perhaps the most important body of work of its kind in the second half of the century."

The Nobel literature prize, first awarded to French author Sully Prudhomme in 1901, is worth $943,000 in this centennial year.

The academy cited Naipaul for his "incorruptible scrutiny" of postcolonial society and his critical assessments of Muslim fundamentalism. Academy head Horace Engdahl conceded this year's choice might be seen as political in the wake of terrorist attacks in the United States and the American retaliation.

"What he's really attacking in Islam is a particular trait that it has in common with all cultures that conquerors bring along—that it tends to obliterate the preceding culture," Engdahl said.

At a reading in London last week, Naipaul condemned what he called the "calamitous effect" of Islam and compared it to colonialism.

"To be converted, you have to destroy your past, destroy your history. You have to stamp on it, you have to say, 'My ancestral culture does not exist, it doesn't matter,'" he said.

Vidiadhar Surajprasad (pronounced VID-ya-dhar Suh-RAHJ-prah-sahd) Naipaul has the reputation for being a tough-minded, misanthropic man with no use for such literary rituals as publishing parties and flattering blurbs for his peers. In "Sir Vidia's Shadow," a highly unflattering book published in 1998, former friend Paul Theroux wrote that "he elevated crankishness as the proof of his artistic temperament."

Asked by The Associated Press how he would celebrate winning the Nobel, Naipaul replied: "I don't have the talent for celebrating. Maybe I'll just stop worrying for a day or two."

Naipaul has been in the news lately, and not just because of his comments about Islam. In a recent interview, he mocked E.M. Forster, author of "A Passage to India" and other novels: "He just knew the court and a few middle-class Indians and a few garden boys whom he wished to seduce," Naipaul told the Literary Review. He also took on James Joyce's "Ulysses," saying that "Joyce was going blind and I can't understand the work of a blind writer."

Like Joyce, Ireland's famous exile, Naipaul has an uneasy relationship with his native country. As a student at Oxford, he wrote to his family: "I shall die if I had to spend the rest of my life in Trinidad." Referring to the English, he vowed "to beat them at their own language."

"We honor and respect Naipaul and we are proud of his achievements no matter how much we grumble about some of his pronouncements that Trinidad is primitive and uncivilized," said Ken Ramkhand, a professor of literature at the University of the West Indies. "The ordinary Trinidadian is always proud of his heroes. Naipaul is a hero."

Naipaul comes from a literary family. His father, Seepersad Naipaul, was a longtime journalist whose work of fiction, "The Adventures of Gurudeva," was published posthumously in 1976. Naipaul's brother, the late Shiva Naipaul, is best known for the travel book "North of South." *AP*

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Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	HI 24° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 20°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 23°
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Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/10/13/01

ROUNDUP

Erratum

LAST Aug. 16, 2001, the INQUIRER Visayas ran an article titled "Cebu's Adopted Son Unblemished No More," written by Malou Guanzon-Apalisok. The story elicited a reaction from lawyer Richard Sison, counsel for Col. Ceferino Layao who was mentioned in the article. Sison said Layao was never separated from the service. Though he was made to appear before a court martial in connection with the Far East Bank Robbery case, he was found not guilty. All the charges filed against him were dismissed by the Armed Forces Reviewing Authority, the findings of which were concurred in by Col. Edgardo Dayao (JAGO) in his memorandum to the Commanding General of the Visayas Command dated February 23, 1993, according to Sison. Ms Apalisok and the INQUIRER Visayas regret the inaccuracy.

Murder suspect freed

DIFFUN, Quirino—The principal suspect in the July 30 killing of a Vietnamese businessman here was released after the court nullified his arrest warrant for lack of due process. Judge Josefino Piamonte of the municipal trial court here discovered that Bernard Galang, 32, was not given the chance to file his counter-affidavit on the charges. Galang was being tagged for the murder of businessman Hoang Hyunh Tran, 24, a Vietnamese and a resident of Plaridel Heights Subdivision at Dubinan West in Santiago City.

Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

School principal probed

SAN MIGUEL, Bulacan—While many schools in the country are suffering from shortage of classrooms, a principal in an elementary school here had ordered the demolition of six classrooms in her school. Guadalupe Doktor, principal of the Sibul Spring Elementary School here, is now in hot water after education officials in the province ordered an investigation on her culpability in the demolition of a six-classroom school building last June. Doktor, however, defended her action, saying she ordered the demolition of the building because of its "dilapidated condition." *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Worker rescued

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A plantation worker, who was among 15 individuals seized by the Abu Sayyaf from Barangay Tairan, Lantawan, Basilan on July 11, was rescued on Wednesday. Lantawan mayor Tahira Ismael said Faizal Benasing, a worker of the Golden Harvest Plantation, was rescued by a composite team from the local government, the police and the military around 5 p.m. in Barangay Upper Matikang, Lantawan. Benasing was the sixth hostage to be rescued by authorities. The bandits beheaded two others later. Ismael said efforts to secure the release of the seven remaining workers are underway.

Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau

College building burned

KABACAN, Cotabato—Authorities here are still trying to identify those responsible for burning the college of agriculture building of the University of Southern Mindanao on Tuesday night. However, Ramon Vallescas, town fire Marshall, said the incident was a clear case of arson, aimed at sowing terror among students of the state university. The fire started around 7 p.m. while an affair was being conducted at the nearby university gymnasium. Some people said they heard explosions before the fire. Last year, arsonists also razed the building that housed the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Sorsogon heritage lectures

SORSOGON CITY—Certain stages in the history of Sorsogon province will be discussed during the "Kasanggayahan Heritage Lectures" on Oct. 15 at the Laboure Hall of the St. Louise de Marillac College, here. The lectures are part of this year's Sorsogon's annual Kasanggayahan Festival. The Kasanggayahan Foundation Inc. and the Catholic Education Association of Sorsogon, in cooperation with the Sorsogon Heritage Society headed by Eugenia D. Apostol and the Institute for Bikol Studies will host the lectures. The lecturers include De La Salle University history professor Dr. Luis Dery and Stephen Henry, who will talk on "Promoting Un Bien Gobierno in Sorsogon: Gov. Bernardino Monreal, 1902-1907."

PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Ballots to be recounted

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The Commission on Elections has ordered the Palawan Comelec to bring to its central office in Manila all ballot boxes used in the last elections here in view of an electoral protest filed against elected vice mayor Fernando Batul by losing candidate Lucilo Bayron. The ballot boxes will recounted. The Comelec also ordered Bayron to deposit P229,000 for the recount of ballots from 418 barangays here. Bayron accused Batul of vote buying and using illegal tactics during the campaign but the vice mayor, a former hard-hitting radio announcer, said the accusations were all baseless as he had no money to buy votes and no guts to use illegal means.

Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Anti-terror lessons urged

ROCO

BAGUIO CITY—Education Secretary Raul Roco on Wednesday said he had instructed public schoolteachers to teach children about the difference between terrorism and democracy.

Roco said the directive was issued this week to "help (Filipino children) cope with the ongoing US-led war against Afghanistan." Psychologists have feared the war's impact on the psyche of grade school pupils, pre-teens and young adults.

But Roco's directive stopped short of selling America's war as the option against terrorism and extreme religious fundamentalism.

Instead, he is giving teachers and principals the autonomy to devise modules or seek guidance from psychologists about the best way for children to understand the scope of the international war.

"We need heroes, we need good stories, to tell children about democracy and terrorism. The teachers can discuss the firemen who tried to rescue the victims of the World Trade Center attacks, and who died there," he told the INQUIRER.

Roco was here to address the 38th national conference of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) at the Baguio Country Club.

"But we also have local heroes, like the Benguet miners or the Philex (Mining Corp.) miners, who rescued my wife from the rubble in Baguio when it was struck by the 1990 killer earthquake. The teachers can teach them that," Roco said.

The former senator discussed the value of cultural knowledge with PMAP members, because of its fundamental hold on society "even when the bombs fall on Afghanistan."

Roco said cultural knowledge is key to developing new talents for business, and is essential for maintaining the social infrastructure even after the horrific impact of a war.

"We must teach patriotism. These days, Filipinos shy away from any discussion about patriotism. We are too modest . . . We are probably the first citizens of the world. Over two million health workers in the world will always admit that the best health worker is a Filipino, and the millions of singers in the world will always (defer) to the Filipino singer," he said.

Roco's order came amid the ongoing United States strikes on the Afghanistan's ruling Taliban regime.

The Taliban were accused of harboring and protecting alleged terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden.

The administration of President Macapagal had promised to support the US attacks by allowing US ships and warplanes to use Philippine air space and bases for launching the attacks and for other purposes related to the anti-terrorism campaign. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Pangasinan cops raise alert for kidnapping

DAGUPAN CITY—Police augmented their forces and established mobile checkpoints to avert more kidnap-for-ransom incidents here.

Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, provincial police director, said he received reports that two other Chinese-Filipino residents of this city were kidnapped months before the Sept. 27 abduction of Charlie Ngo, president of the Star Plaza Hotel.

A member of the Chinese community, who requested not to be named, confirmed this, but would not mention the names of the alleged victims whom the source said paid ransom.

"If (these) reports are true, we are worried. This will cause anxiety to the Chinese community. But we are doing our best to prevent other kidnapping incidents," Mendoza said.

A Chinese-Filipino businessman admitted that fear grips members of the Chinese-Filipino community here because of the reported kidnapping incidents. Many of them have hired bodyguards, he said.

Supt. Noli Taliño, Dagupan police chief, said the police are intensifying community patrolling, police visibility and intelligence monitoring.

Taliño would not say if Ngo had been released because "we still have to confirm from his family if he was really kidnapped."

Reports said Ngo was released last Friday after his family paid P9 million.

A staff member of the Star Plaza Hotel said Ngo had returned from a business trip in Cebu City and had been resting in his house.

However, a source close to the Ngo family insisted that the businessman was kidnapped on Sept. 27 and has not been released yet.

"But I believe he is alive. We are eyeing a kidnap-for-ransom group that is possibly behind the kidnapping. This group can keep the negotiation open for a long period and it does not lower its asking price," the source said. "The kidnappers could be a big, organized syndicate with a local conduit." *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Vigilantes kill another suspected drug pusher

DAVAO CITY—Another suspected drug pusher was gunned down here yesterday morning.

The victim, Cesar Baita, 30, was shot and killed by two motorcycle-riding suspects.

Supt. Efren Alcuizar, chief of the Regional Anti-Narcotics Office (Rano) said Baita was in their watchlist for alleged drug trafficking.

Senior Supt. Wilfredo Garcia, city police chief, also confirmed that the victim was being monitored for alleged drug-pushing activities.

Baita is the seventh person killed by the motorcycle-riding men believed to be members of an anti-illegal drugs vigilante group.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte earlier vowed to eradicate the city's drug problem by December.

Two persons, however, survived assassination attempts by the vigilante group.

Jordan Nhoa, 17, was shot on Tuesday night as he was on his way to his uncle's house in Ma-a, Talomo District.

Nhoa, in an interview at the Davao Medical Center, denied he was engaged in drug peddling.

Nhoa said it could be a case of mistaken identity.

Alcuizar earlier claimed that Nhoa was also in their watchlist. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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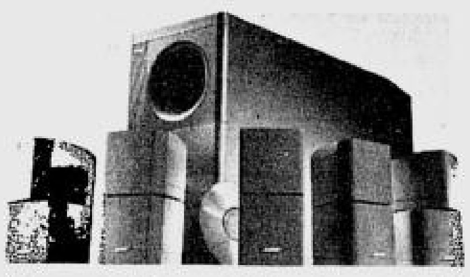
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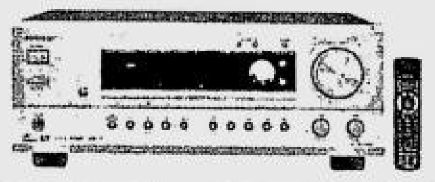
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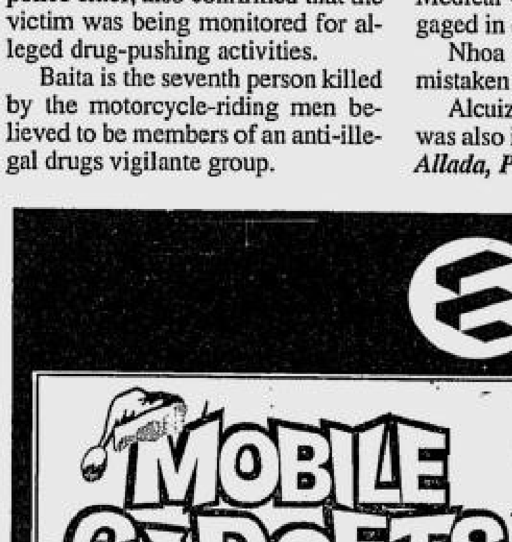

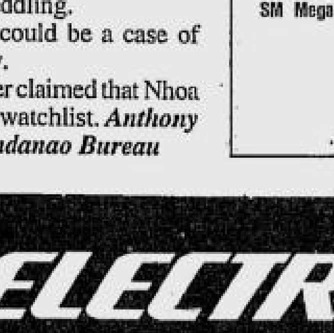
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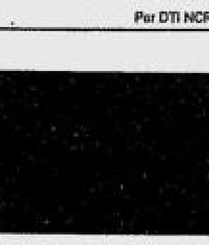
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Low copra prices driving firm to lay off workers

MATI, Davao Oriental—The International Copra Export Corp., which is one of the country's biggest coconut crude oil exporters, said it is considering a mass layoff of its workers unless the price of copra, which has been falling in the last few years, does not improve.

Interco, which maintains three plants in Mindanao including one here, said it is losing an average of P500 million a year since the crisis in the coconut industry started.

"Definitely, we will be forced to cut significantly our workforce should the downtrend continue in the next two years," Michael Ling, Interco purchasing manager, said.

Interco, he said, used to earn P1 billion per year.

Ling said the crisis gripping the coconut industry is hardly addressed because "the government's intervention (to solve the crisis) is not enough."

Interco is Davao Oriental's remaining big private employer after the Davao Timber Corp. shut down its operations in the early 1980s. It currently employs at least 150 people here.

Another reason cited by Interco for the layoff is the unabated cutting of coconut trees, which resulted in a reduced supply of nuts.

"The government is helpless in stopping the massive cutting of coconut trees. If this trend will continue in the next two years, we will really be forced to retrench our workers," Ling said.

But coconut producers said they have no more choice left but to convert their farms either into ricefields or mango plantations because of the very low prices of copra.

Even Mayor Francisco Rabat admitted he is diversifying his 400-hectare farm while waiting for the coconut industry to recover.

"Diversify (the farm) so you can be helped. If the coconut will not help you, the other (crops) will. I am now very lucky with my pomelo," Rabat said.

On the claims of Interco, Rabat said that "the oil mills are never affected (by the crisis) because they just buy copra, process it and sell it."

"They always make money. It is the coconut producers who lose money because right now the income of copra just goes to the laborers," he said.

From a high of P20 per kilo until 1998, prices of copra plummeted to a low of P4 per kilo. The reason cited for the sharp decrease was the world market's shift to the use of palm oil.

"The world market prices of copra is very low because the other oil vegetable products are very substantial in production like the palm oil in Malaysia. They released an average of 8 million tons a year to the world market and Indonesia, 5 million tons. How do you expect the coconut industry to compete with that," Rabat said.

Jonelito Vicente, officer in charge of the Philippine Coconut Authority here, said he expected the annual output of the coconut industry to further decrease in the coming years because the PCA is poised to stop its free fertilizers program because of lack of funds.

He, however, denied there was massive cutting of coconut trees here.

Vicente said there was even an increase in the area planted to coconut.

Davao Oriental became the country's largest coconut producer when its annual output reached 216,710 metric tons last year. But the PCA here said the figure is 40 percent lower than the same period in 1999. *Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Ex-US soldier charged with 26 more rape cases

BACOLOD CITY—Twenty-six more counts of rape were filed against American ex-serviceman Victor Pearson before the Ilog Municipal Trial Court on Thursday.

This brought to 71 the rape cases filed against Pearson, according to lawyer Rowena Guanzon, counsel of the alleged victims.

Pearson, 53, a former member of United States Marine Corps who served in Vietnam, is now detained at the Negros Occidental Provincial Jail.

The 13th alleged victim of American Pearson surfaced Monday and was placed by Ilog police chief Fidel Fortaleza under the custody of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

The number of rape cases filed against Pearson was expected to still increase as three more rape victims were scheduled to file similar charges against him.

Guanzon said Ilog Judge Victor Magahud has inhibited himself from conducting further preliminary investigations of the rape cases filed against Pearson.

This came after two lawyers of Pearson filed a motion asking for his inhibition after accusing him of being biased.

Magahud issued a search warrant that was used by the police for a raid on the residential compound of Pearson in Barangay Dancalan, Ilog two months ago.

Guanzon said she was filing a motion before the Supreme Court opposing the inhibition of Magahud because allowing the judge to inhibit himself from the case would further delay proceedings on the charges filed against Pearson.

Of the 13 women who have claimed Pearson raped them, eight were minors, Fortaleza said.

Pearson has been also charged in court for illegal possession of firearms and violation of Republic Act 6425, otherwise known as Dangerous Drugs Act of 1972. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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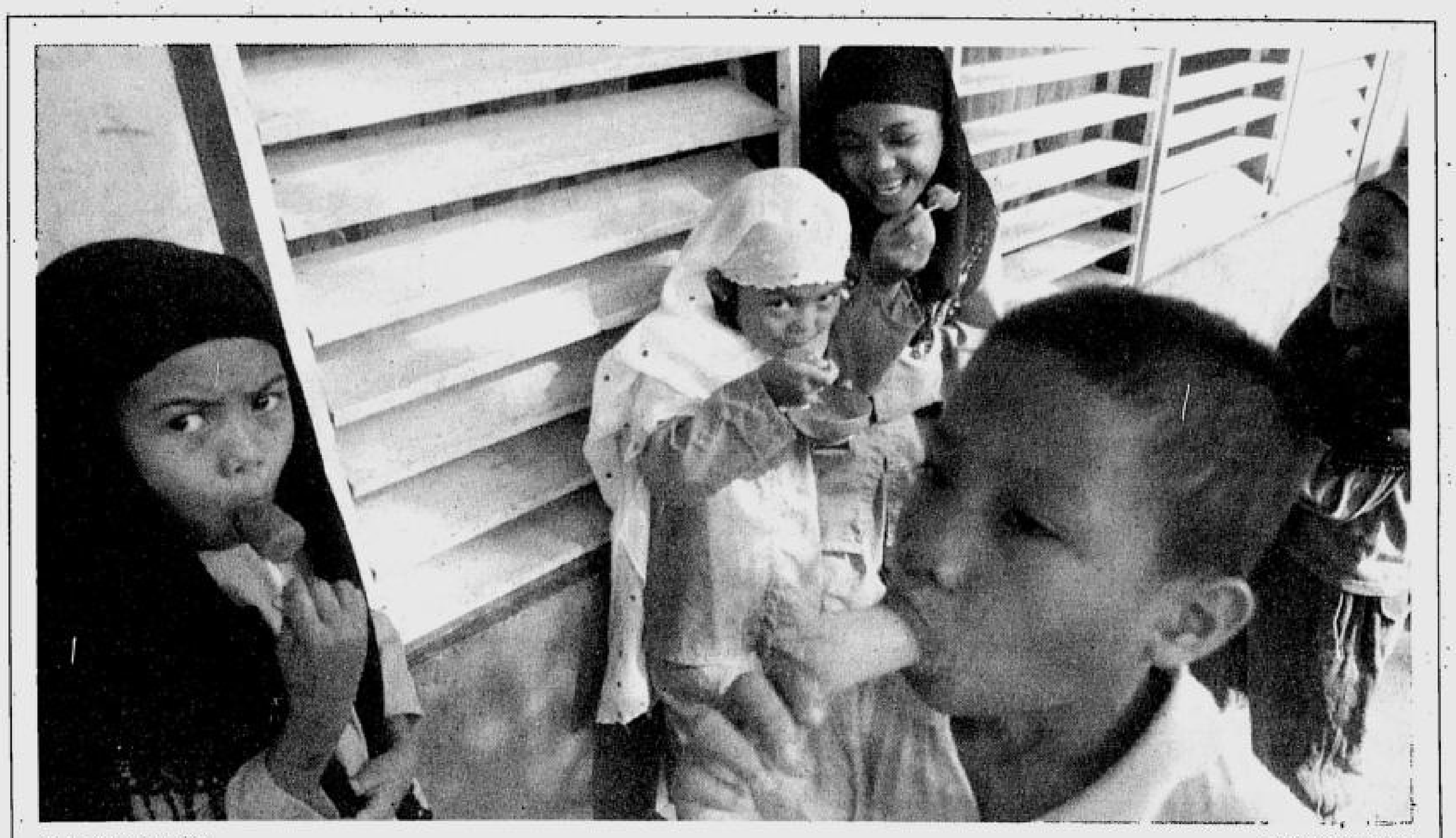

NORMALCY

DENNIS SABANGAN

Muslim children in a school in Isabela, Basilan try to live normal lives despite the ongoing assault against Abu Sayyaf bandits who are fighting for an independent Islamic state in Mindanao.

Anti-Ping witness links cop to drug trade in PNP force

ROXAS CITY—A former member of the Narcotics Group in Capiz was among those implicated by witness Remus Garganera in the illegal drug trade in the country.

SPO4 Mabini Rosale, who is reportedly now detailed as security officer of Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante, was implicated by Garganera in the distribution of illegal drugs nationwide.

Garganera, 38, one of the witnesses of military intelligence against former NarcGroup police officers, had claimed in his testimony before the Senate that three NarcGroup policemen remitted an average of P500,000 "every other day" in proceeds from the alleged trafficking.

He identified the police officers only by their surnames—Tuvera, Castro and Rosale—who, he said, were under Supt. Francisco Villaroman.

The police officer surnamed Rosale has been identified in radio reports here as SPO4 Mabini Rosale, a former agent of the Narcotics Command who hails from Capiz and who was previously linked to illegal drug trafficking activities.

Garganera, now in the protective custody of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), corroborated allegations made by former narcotics civilian agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong who said that ranking police officers associated with Sen. Panfilo Lacson Jr. used to engage in drug trafficking.

Rosale was relieved of his assignment in Capiz sometime in 1991 after the Capiz Citizens Drug Watch Council, then chaired by former Vice Gov. Noede Villareal, passed a resolution asking for his relief amid reports of his alleged involvement in the illegal drug trade.

Rosale, who is a native of Barangay Lawaan here, then strongly denied the allegations, especially after the council failed to substantiate its charges against him.

His older sister expressed disbelief at Rosale's alleged involvement in the drug trade, noting that Rosale "remained poor" up to this day.

Matilde Rosale Cantiller said his brother's "simple lifestyle" would belie the "false claim" of Garganera that Rosale is into the drug trade.

She added it was hard to believe the allegations against her brother because people who were into the drug trade usually have plenty of money.

Her brother, she said, just lives in a modest home in a squatters' area in Fort Bonifacio with his wife and four children.

In fact, she said, she once went to Manila to borrow money from Rosale for her capital in the watermelon business but she went back empty-handed. "My brother just doesn't have money."

According to her, her brother would come home soon to clear his name.

She said she hoped that her brother would come out in the open "to tell the truth."

"Even if he dies for truth, if it is really the truth, then he will become a hero to us. But even if he is my brother, if he would not tell the truth and the charges against him are true, we will not side with him," Cantiller said. *Gerry Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Fear of mercury poisoning heightens in bay

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Authorities have decided to tap deep-sea divers to salvage several containers filled with 500 kilograms of mercury from a sunken boat in Sarangani Bay.

This developed as divers from the Philippine Coast Guard, the Philippine Navy and the Maritime Police, who have been conducting retrieval operations for almost a week now, have failed to locate the poisonous element.

South Cotabato Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio requested expert divers from Manila to help in the retrieval operation.

The deep-sea divers are expected to arrive here anytime this week.

Earlier, Supt. Ulpiano Lopez, chief of the Maritime Police Command in Region 12, said the depth of the Sarangani Bay could hardly be fathomed by skin divers because of lack of equipment.

The failure of government divers to retrieve the containers has heightened fears about possible contamination here.

Sarangani Bay serves as the fishing ground for small fishermen and they are heavily dependent on it to support their family's daily requirement.

On Monday, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources released the result of laboratory tests on water sample from Sarangani Bay.

The agency said it has found no traces of mercury from the samples.

However, local officials said unless the containers are salvaged, the threat of widespread poisoning remains.

The mercury, a banned element because of its highly poisonous properties, was being brought here onboard a 20-footer motorized banca.

However, big waves sunk the banca after a cargo ship passed near it.

Danilo Babol, the boat's captain reported the incident and claimed that a certain Gilbert Bangat, a trader based in Davao City, was the owner of the contraband.

Meanwhile, Eliserio Cuaton of the Bureau of Customs confirmed that the city has become a drop-off point for smuggled mercury from Indonesia after authorities in the Davao City Port intensified its campaign against smuggling.

Cuaton said the contraband is then transported by land through Davao City to gold mines in the Davao provinces. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

1 slain, 4 hurt as clans clash over farm

BATAN, Aklan—One person was killed and four others were wounded when private armed groups employed by feuding landowners clashed Thursday afternoon at Sitio Langka, Barangay Camaligan in this town.

The Batan police identified the casualty as Milton Martesano. Wounded were siblings Tony and Cesar Cuales, Arnel de la Cruz and Dionel Salonso.

The Cualeses were brought to the St. Jude Hospital in Kalibo for treatment while De la Cruz and Salonso were admitted at the Cooperative Mission Hospital, also in Kalibo.

Martesano and the Cualeses were under the employ of the Dionisio family while De la Cruz and Salonso were among the 20 security personnel provided by lawyer Edgar Calizo to secure a disputed property claimed by the Rose family in Barangay Camaligan.

Calizo is the legal counsel of the Rose family that was fighting with the Dionisio family over a 16-hectare riceland in Camaligan.

The Batan police was not certain which camp started the clash. The town police said the Rose camp insisted that their guardhouse was raided by the men of the Dionisio family while the Dionisio camp claimed they were ambushed along the way by the Rose security men.

Residents claimed they heard bursts of gunfire from high-powered firearms but the protagonists claimed they were only armed with handguns and shotguns.

The Batan police sub-unit in Camaligan reported that only two of the Rose family's security personnel were licensed security guards. *Odon Bandiola, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Economic crisis blamed for rise in Pangasinan depression cases

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—Because of hard times brought about by the economic crisis, more Pangasinenses are suffering from depression, according to medical records.

Based on these records, Dr. Sheridan Milan, a psychiatrist of the Don Teofilo Sison Regional Hospital, said depression is common among men, especially family breadwinners who have lost their jobs.

Depression ranks second to schizophrenia as having the most number of cases in Pangasinan, Milan said. It is an emotional state characterized by feelings of persistent sadness, worthlessness, dejection, loss of hope and interest in usual activities.

If left untreated, depression can turn into psychosis (serious mental derangement).

The other mental illnesses prevalent in the province, according to records, are mania (a form of mental disorder marked by great elation and violent action) and psychosis.

"The number of our mental patients is increasing," Milan said.

She said there are 2,697 cases in 1999; 3,669 cases in 2000; and 2,761 cases from January to September this year.

"We expect the cases to rise dramatically in December when depression and other mental illnesses recur among the old patients and develop among new patients," she said.

She explained that mental illnesses set in during the holidays, like Christmas and Lenten seasons, because they remember their lost relatives and friends, miss those who are not around them, or they have no money to spend during the holidays.

Milan said at least 80 percent of mental patients taken to the Baguio General Hospital in Baguio City, which has a ward for mental patients, come from Pangasinan.

But she added that this does not mean that the province has more mental cases compared to other provinces in Northern Luzon.

First, Pangasinan has the highest population (2.2 million) in the Ilocos region and second, the province is a highly urbanized place and the residents are aware about the medical treatment available to mental patients, she explained.

She cannot say, however, if mental illness is more common among the poor because those who seek medical treatment in government hospitals are indigent people.

"The moneyed people go to private clinics and hospitals," she said.

Milan added that studies showed that 1 percent of the population is affected with mental illness, but the number could now be higher.

"Studies were undertaken by the Department of Health and initial results showed that the number of mental cases could be higher than 1 percent of the population," she said.

A cause of mental affliction among children and women are sexual molestation and rape, Milan said. The victims suffer from post-traumatic stress which, if left unchecked, progresses into depression and may worsen to psychosis.

Records of the provincial police women's desk showed that 98 females—the youngest at 4 years old and the oldest at 72—were either raped, sexually molested or victims of violence, from January to September this year.

"Children are usually more vulnerable to post-traumatic stress," Milan said.

Milan said schizophrenia ranks first as a mental illness in the province, accounting for 80 percent of the cases brought to the clinic.

Schizophrenia is a disease of the brain whose exact causes are not known. Genetic factors appear to play a role, as close relatives of a person with schizophrenia are more likely to develop the disorder.

Its symptoms are delusions, hallucinations, incoherence, catatonic behavior (bizarre motor behavior marked by a decrease in reactivity to the environment or hyperactivity that is unrelated to stimulus), among other things.

INQUIRER Visayas
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ EDRALYN L. BENEDICTO, Bureau Chief

Frowning MassKara

BACOLOD EXCHANGE

Ninfa R. Leonardia

THEY wore masks and parade down Bacolod's main street. Bu they wore frowning masks, not th widely smiling and colorful one that characterize the city's annua MassKara Festival.

The participants came from ur ban poor organizations. They sai the frowns signify the worsenin crisis in the city. The group tha pre-empted the festival through their own parade Wednesday also declared that the pots and pans they beat instead of drums portrayed their poverty.

Joining them were the vendors who had been swept off the sidewalks and asked to move to a place in the reclamation area. Protesting that MassKara time is the worst time to remove them, they denounced the city mayor as a "terrorist," claiming that at least one of her men fired a gun to scare the vendors off during eviction.

The mayor claimed that she was the one being terrorized.

Ironically, the frowning masks seem to be more appropriate for the time. After admitting that it has no funds to pay the salaries of casual employees, the city government also got notice from the budget department that city personnel must pay back the P5,000 bonus given them in December last year. This was the so-called ERAP bonus, or Emergency Relief Assistance Pamasko, the windfall that got canceled by the Department of Budget and Management.

The city also needs P14.3 million to meet its September obligations and the city treasurer could certify only on the availability of P3.6 million. Appeals by the mayor to realign funds met resistance from the Sangguniang Panlungsod that said the act could expose them to legal action. To make matters worse, the city treasurer took off and went on leave, leaving the problem to them.

It's not only the city that has a reason to frown. Negros Occidental also has its problems. Among them are questions on the propriety of buying P20-million worth of equipment without first inspecting if these pieces of equipment were in working condition.

* * *

One of the witnesses against former police chief now Sen. Panfilo Lacson was discovered to be in the province, and had been employed by the Sagay City government.

Remus Garganera's appearance at the Senate created uproar after he was taken from local police custody by the Intelligence Service of the AFP.

Garganera had admitted that he was the custodian of victims of kidnapping by the now defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force and held money for the agency's drug trade.

Garganera presented himself to provincial police chief Gerry Barias, a former superior officer of the controversial John Campos. Some people had the impression that Barias protected Garganera but Garganera confessed that Barias wanted him to clam up.

Even Gov. Joseph Marañon must have felt that they had been nursing a viper in their bosoms. Marañon said he hired Garganera because of Barias' recommendation.

He denied knowing John Campos, Garganera's former boss. At the Senate hearing, however, Campos presented a letter he allegedly wrote to Marañon recommending Garganera and asking for help for a friend seeking "higher office." The friend was later identified to be now Sen. Ralph Recto. Marañon denied receiving such a letter.

* * *

Meanwhile, Bacolod has also been plagued by VIPs who don't show up at the last minute. Speaker Jose de Venecia, who was supposed to address the Lions Clubs, was a no-show. He didn't even send a speech to be read. Sen. Roberto Jaworski, who was supposed to investigate the coal-fired plant controversy in Pulupandan town, didn't come. Disgusted organizers were not sure whether he got the mysterious flu or just had cold feet.

Tourism chief Richard Gordon sent an assistant to represent him. The media were also scored for scaring off tourists with horror stories of kidnappings and murder. Even the bishop himself was stood up by the chair of the Philippine National Oil Co., Sergio Apostol. The PNOC head was supposed to discuss its controversial geothermal power plant project in Bago City, but canceled the appointment after learning of the prelate's views during a protest rally. There's no more sense in talking, he said.

Hyudge Recarte: A boy's battle against leukemia

By Debra Jane V. Magallon
Cebu City

CHARVY Hyudge Recarte is a typical four-year-old who wants to jump up and down, climb up anywhere he can and play all day long.

He wants to draw and paint animals, especially snakes. He wants to be an actor, too. But for the moment what he wants most is to go to school like his older brothers. And just like his *kuya*, he would also want to help the family by washing the dishes and doing light household chores.

But all these desires and dreams would have to wait until Hyudge gets better. And that is going to be the time when his ordeal against leukemia would ease.

He was given the name Hyudge because he used to be the biggest child born in the family. At 9 pounds at birth, nobody would have thought that a healthy and active boy would succumb to such a terrible ailment.

Now, as he is suffering, his parents could only pray for a miracle to cure their dear Hyudge and spare him the pain that engulfs his small world.

Shangrila Recarte, Hyudge's mother who is in her 30s, tearfully recalled that fateful Friday evening in August that changed their lives forever. Hyudge was then suffering from bouts of amoebiasis and his weight dropped at an alarming pace.

When Hyudge was stricken with high fever, they rushed him to the hospital. They all thought that it was just some normal fever that children usually get during their growing up years. But as his condition worsened and his normal skin tone slowly turned into a paler shade, the whole family began to worry.

His doctor found some abnormalities in Hyudge's blood count and after further tests, the doctor diagnosed him as having childhood acute myeloid leukemia (AML), a cancer of the blood-forming tissue, primarily the bone marrow and lymph nodes.

Debts, debts and more debts

Shortly after he was diagnosed with leukemia, Hyudge underwent his first chemotherapy session. He then was barely three years old.

But not everything went well after the first chemotherapy session. Hyudge started acquiring infections such as Candida, an extreme swelling of the mouth, and pneumonia. Doctors also have to transfuse type O+ blood to Hyudge every now and then.

It has been a year since that first hospital visit. Hyudge has gone to at least seven chemotherapy sessions and was given countless bags of blood.

DEBRA JANE MAGALLON

HYUDGE Recarte, portrait of a sick child.

Now, his family is indebted to the three major hospitals in Cebu City. The family car, while still being used by Hyudge's parents, was already given as collateral to one hospital just so Hyudge could get the medication that he needed to receive.

Charmaine, Shangrila's younger sister, said she has to stop going to school for about a year now not just to help take care of Hyudge but because the money that was supposed to be spent for her tuition went to Hyudge's medication. But she said it was no big deal for her, as long as Hyudge lives.

The whole family is not giving up because Hyudge is not giving up either. Their doctor, Dr. Antonio Queteves, advised them not to miss a single chemotherapy session but sadly, Hyudge had.

"We would gladly want Hyudge to complete all his sessions since the doctor said that he has got a bigger chance to overcome this. But because our money is not sufficient for another session, we missed one session," Shangrila said.

The boy was supposed to have the session last August.

Hyudge's father has been helping Shangrila raise money for their son's medication. But the income he earned from his small business was not enough, since he still has to send two other children to school and take care of Hyudge's youngest sibling, who is still five months old.

Shangrila said they would need at least P30,000 for every chemotherapy session. More money is needed for the kid's antibiotics, blood transfusions and for other hospital bills.

On the day that the Inquirer visited the Recartes' modest home in Barangay Labangon, Cebu City, a frantic Shangrila was at the door about to rush to the hospital with her sick child because Hyudge's blood count had dropped again and he has to be given a new blood transfusion. It was just four days since Hyudge last left the hospital.

Red toy car

On the way to the hospital, Shangrila went to pick up several friends who were earlier contacted and had agreed to donate blood.

Hyudge was sitting in the corner of the car (the same car that had been relinquished in favor of a hospital that the Recarte family owed so much in medical bills) driven by his father. If one did not know any better, Hyudge looked like he was not sick at all. He seemed okay except for the spots of black and blue all over his body and the bleeding of his gums and tongue.

He was full of stories about his drawings. He was also musing about washing the dishes someday when he becomes stronger.

When he saw that a camera was trained on him, he slowly stood up and posed.

Then, when asked about what kind of Christmas gift he would want to receive, he excitedly said, "I want a red toy car with blinking lights."

Why did he not ask to be cured? Hyudge's answer was simple—he didn't need to wish for that because he knew Jesus would take care of him and help him.

At the hospital, it took several minutes before Hyudge was given admission. Shangrila said the hospital almost did not admit Hyudge because they still have unpaid bills.

It was time for Hyudge to get inside the hospital. He looked at this reporter with very sad eyes. His father went to get him and he started crying. He was crying because he did not want to feel again the pain of pricking needles that came with blood transfusion.

His cry echoed in the hallway as he was gently brought into the emergency room. It was at that point that one realizes that Hyudge was not a normal child after all. He is sick and needs help.

Iloilo braces for tough times in wake of budget cuts

Ma. Diosa Labiste
Iloilo City

ILOILO City Mayor Jerry Treñas has been criticized for running the city like his fast-food business.

Carlos, the restaurant-chain owned by the mayor's family, had closed many of its branches some years ago because it could no longer compete with multinational fast-food chains armed with huge advertisement budgets. Today, only one branch of Carlos remains open, after years of downsizing and adjusting to the market.

The city government, pundits feared, might go the way of the mayor's food chain where belt tightening is the order of the day. Treñas has announced last week a 20-percent reduction in the annual city budget of P600 million in anticipation of a deficit in the internal revenue allotment (IRA) and local revenue collections.

The budget reduction would mean a decline in the quantity and quality of basic services, admitted Hernani Guillergan, the city's assistant planning and development coordinator.

In an executive order last week, Treñas froze budgetary allocations totaling P118 million. It was equivalent to 93 percent of the expected P126-million budgetary shortfall this year.

The mayor said he signed the order "with a heavy heart," but stressed that everybody must bite the bullet for the survival of the city.

Among those frozen by the order were the P22-million non-office budgetary reserve; the P25 million intended for the construction of a new City Hall building; a P15-million reduction in the 20 percent development fund; a P336,248 reduction in the five percent budgetary reserve; and current appropriations totaling more than P21 million.

KINAMATARUNG
SA PULUY-AN
IPANGBATO
-KADAMAY
DEMOLISYON

HONEYMOON IS OVER. Members of the city urban poor communities stage a picket in front of the city hall demanding decent relocation sites and basic social services.

PHOTO BY ARNOLD ALMACEN

Hardest hit offices

City government offices hardest hit were the city engineer's office whose budgetary appropriations were reduced by P3.4 million; the city health office, P2.7 million; the general services office, P2.2 million; the markets and slaughterhouse, P1.3 million; the La Paz Maternity and Reproductive Health Center, P1.4 million; and the Technical Institute of Iloilo City, P1.5 million.

Even regular employees were affected, as the P4.1 million intended for their anniversary bonus this November was suspended.

The city government also froze some P2.2 million in financial aid for Museo Iloilo (the city museum), Fire Service Units, Traffic Engineering and Management Unit, slums improvement project, and assistance for barangay peace and order volunteers.

Amid jitters among city employees and officers over the budget cuts, the mayor called all city department heads to a meeting last week to seek their cooperation for the duration of the city's financial crisis.

He assured everyone that despite of ominous signs that the budget difficulties will linger beyond this year, he would try to find ways to weather the budget squeeze by next year.

"We know what our expenditures will be for the remaining days of the year, but what we don't know is where the money for these expenditures will be coming from," Treñas told the city's chiefs of offices.

Dr. Urminico Baronda, city health officer, said despite the reduction of his office's subsidy, basic health services like immunization, nutrition and the anti-tuberculosis drive would continue.

What the budget cut would affect would be the capital outlay, or the budget for repairs of health centers and purchase of administrative equipment like tables and chairs for the recently renovated La Paz Maternity and Reproductive Health Center.

"The repairs have to be postponed until next year or when there is money again," said Baronda.

Aside from capital outlay, the budget of any office or local government is broken down into personal services (salaries and employee benefits), materials/operating and other expenses (MOOE) and non-office expenditures.

No more free coffins

Even free coffins for indigents would no longer be available for the rest of this year and perhaps until next year.

Winefredo Lagura, head of the barangay secretariat office, said the city had been giving away free coffins for more than 30 years now and hundreds have benefited from the project.

He said freezing the project would have a negative impact on the city's pro-poor image. Last year, the city gave away 320 coffins at P2,000 each. From January to June this year, 113 coffins were distributed.

In a radio interview, city councilor Eduardo Peñaredondo complained that the budget cut is illegal because the legislative department was not consulted on what items would be slashed.

But Baronda and Guillergan said the executive decision on budget cuts was democratic and fair. There were consultations and heads of offices were asked to identify what items in the budget would be slashed or reduced.

The final decision, though, resided on the mayor. "The budget process is a management tool and is a prerogative of the executive department," Guillergan stressed.

City treasurer Romeo Manikan has earlier forecast a deficit this year caused by the reduction in the share of the city's IRA by P68 million.

Manikan said the city also stands to lose P15 million to P18 million next year because 12 business establishments, among th em giant retail chains like SM City Iloilo and Robinson's Place, have applied for and were granted tax incentives that allow them a three-year tax break.

Man, 12, tells of flight from Kabul

GOLBAHAR, Afghanistan—When the head of the family came home from work, she told him: the children were terrified by the American bombing. They were crying.

The shockwaves from bombs that hit the radio tower on Television Mountain had already shattered the glass of their windows. On Thursday, it was time to escape from Kabul.

The head of the family is her 12-year-old son Fais, who works in a bakery from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. earning 50 cents a day.

Since his father died two years ago, Fais has fed his mother, brothers Shafi, 8, and Saleh, 7, and tiny sister Istorai, 5, living in one rented room in the Afghan capital.

Ten hours into their journey, Fais was sitting on the roof of a Soviet-built jeep. His mother and the children were crammed into the back trunk. Two other refugee families, with a newborn infant and four other children, were in the two rows of seats.

Fais' mother did not give her name, but agreed to speak from behind the blue burqa veil that screened her face.

"We have no man. The planes were bombing, my children were scared, so I decided, tomorrow we need to go."

They would stay with the children's grandfather in a mountain village in the Panjsher valley, on the other side of the front line, if they could get there.

REFUGEES fleeing from Kabul travel along the old Kabul road.

GETTY IMAGES

To pay for the trip, Fais went to market to sell the few blankets, pillows and mats that furnished their room.

No-man's land

They left before dawn, drove out to the front, walked two hours across no-man's land into opposition Northern Alliance territory, then caught this jeep through a dust storm.

The last leg of their journey is ahead: another car up to the Panjsher valley. Reporters offer them a lift.

Fais passes their possessions—a large pink plastic flour sack stuffed with clothes—down from the roof of the jeep, gives a thick wad of cash to the driver and climbs down.

Istorai, his 5-year-old sister, stands for a moment crying in the street.

The rest of the way, Fais talks about Kabul under American bombing. Most of the shops are closed, he says. The bakery where he works has been producing a third of the usual amount of bread since the bombing began.

He talks about their life. He says he earns enough to feed the family, but the sunken eyes and pinched faces of his brothers and sister show they have often been hungry.

The Taliban have been arresting men on the street, he says, but it is not clear if he is repeating what he has seen or only rumors he has heard.

Little Istorai eventually smiles, her tired face streaked with dirt and dried tears. She sneezes several times and clings with tiny hands to the sack of clothes as the pickup jolts through a rut.

The pickup stops at a lush, terraced bend in the Panjsher gorge. They will still need to cross a bridge and walk an hour up a mountain track on the other side.

They clamber down the stony bank toward the river just before sunset. Little Istorai, in a red-hooded snowsuit, takes two steps to her mother's one. Fais, the 12-year-old man, carries all their possessions slung over his broad shoulder in the flour sack.

Half-way across the bridge, Saleh, the 7-year-old, kicks a stone. It clangs against the bridge rail, and he skips ahead to kick another, and another.

For a moment he is a regular little kid, almost home. ***Reuters***

Sobero confirmed dead; 3 more hostages escape

(From page A1)

and 17 Filipinos were snatched on May 27 from an island resort in Palawan and taken by speedboat to Basilan.

A number of freed Filipino hostages have told the military that Sobero, a diabetic who was reportedly wounded, was tied up and separated from the other captives on the night of June 11. He was never seen again.

The Abu Sayyaf had claimed that it beheaded Sobero on June 12, saying it was an Independence Day "gift" to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"We hold the terrorists responsible for this despicable act of violence," the US embassy said.

"We call for the immediate safe and unconditional release of Martin and Gracia Burnham and all of the Filipino captives still being held," it said.

The embassy said the US would continue to support the Philippine government's efforts to end the hostage situation without giving in to the Abu Sayyaf's demands.

The US is set to send a team of military advisers to the Philippines over the coming weeks to help local troops crush the Abu Sayyaf, though Philippine officials have ruled out direct US military action on Philippine territory.

Upon hearing the news, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) expressed its condolences to the Sobero family and condemned the Abu Sayyaf.

"This is a signal to us to steel our resolve to put an end to terrorist acts on our soil. We need to support the efforts undertaken by the government to carry this out," said DFA spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros.

In Malacañang, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the government was willing to negotiate with the Abu Sayyaf for the release of the American couple.

"Our lines are open if the Abu Sayyaf terrorists are going to talk about the release of the Burnhams," Golez said at a press briefing.

"But our lines are closed if the negotiations include any concession or any condition," he added.

American couple alive

In the first news of the Burnhams for some time, three Filipino captives, who gave their kidnappers the slip early Friday during a military assault, said they were alive.

Plantation workers Zaldy Benasing, 14, Bertam Benasing, 21, and Michael Abellon, 20, told reporters that the Burnhams, from Wichita, Kansas, were with the group before the kidnap gang scattered during an army artillery barrage.

"The whites (American captives) were there," Bertam Benasing told reporters, referring to the Burnhams. "They were made to eat bananas like us. They seemed okay."

Earlier, Faizal Benasing, another plantation worker, was able to escape from his captors.

"Four down, 14 more to go," said Col. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., commander of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade.

The former hostages are now in the custody of the 10th Infantry Battalion in Tairan, Lantawan.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, Southern Command chief, said the military had expected the escape of the hostages because of the military operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

Military units tracked down the Abu Sayyaf unit near Lantawan last week, sparking a series of firefights, which have left 21 guerrillas dead and 21 others wounded. Twenty-seven soldiers were also wounded.

But a human rights group said the casualties were civilians.

Hiding place

The freed hostages told reporters that they took advantage of the ongoing military operation in Lantawan.

"We pretended that we were going to get water for our captors. We went down from their hiding place at about 6:30 p.m. Then we escaped," Bertam Benasing said in Filipino.

He said they walked until they reached the Golden Harvest Plantation in Lantawan at about 3 a.m.

The Abu Sayyaf seized the farm workers during a raid on the plantation on July 11.

Abellon claimed that his abduction had changed his life.

He said he converted to Islam under the Abu Sayyaf.

"Maganda ang Islam, *yun ang totoo* (Islam is good. That's the truth)," the former captive said.

However, Cimatu said Abellon could have developed a temporary illness called the Stockholm syndrome.

"This is really the tendency of the hostages. They develop a feeling of closeness with their kidnappers. The kidnappers also develop the same feeling toward the hostages," Cimatu told reporters.

Cimatu said the hostages would overcome the syndrome after they reunite with their families. ***With reports from Carlito Pablo, Martin P. Marfil and AFP***

Bush gives Taliban second chance

(From page A1)

the Taliban military, and destroyed most of their air defenses," Bush said.

"We're mounting a sustained campaign to drive the terrorists out of their hidden caves and to bring them to justice," he said.

But Bush said he did not know whether Bin Laden was dead or alive.

"I want him brought to justice," he said of the man believed behind the terrorist attacks that killed about 5,000 people.

Bush said "it may take a year or two" to track down Bin Laden and his terrorist network, but asserted that after a five-day aerial bombardment of Afghanistan, "we've got them on the run."

The first wave of the latest US attacks began shortly after Thursday sundown and then resumed in the early hours of Friday morning, rocking the Afghan capital and surrounding areas.

"Some of the explosions felt very close, but the focus seemed to be targets outside the city," an AFP reporter in Kabul said.

US warplanes have shifted their sights to military garrisons and troop concentrations, softening up Taliban resistance with heavy bombing, US officials said, in what could be a prelude to the use of elite special forces.

Pentagon officials also said US warplanes had turned to 5,000-pound "bunker busting" bombs to rip open caves and tunnels to get at hiding places.

But the Taliban has so far remained defiant in the face of the onslaught on its troops, motor pools, training areas, aircraft, radar installations and surface-to-air missile units.

Civilian casualties

The militia has accused the United States of targeting civilians, saying that more than 300 innocent Afghans, including women and children, have been killed in the air strikes.

At least 160 bodies, most of them women and children, have been recovered from a village in eastern Afghanistan that was bombed by US planes during a failed attack on an alleged terrorist training camp, the Taliban said Friday.

"So far 160 bodies have been recovered, mostly women and children," a Taliban spokesperson told the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press.

"This is not an exaggeration. More bodies are still being recovered. There are government relief teams in the area and local people are involved in the rescue operation,' the spokesperson said.

The Taliban spokesperson also told the Afghan Islamic Press more than 1,000 cattle, the most valuable assets for many Afghan families, had been killed.

Taliban officials in the area said on Thursday they feared more than 200 people had been killed when a bomb struck the village of Kadam in what was apparently an attack aimed at a training camp for members of Bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

The village lies about 40 km west of the city of Jalalabad, which has been the target of repeated US attacks. According to Taliban officials in Jalalabad, there was a Bin Laden training camp near Kadam but it had been abandoned as soon as the United States started signaling that it intended to retaliate for the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

Local officials said many people in the area around Kadam had taken refuge in nearby caves, which have also been targeted.

The other civilian casualties claimed by the Taliban include 10 members of the same family who were reportedly killed when a stray missile destroyed their house near Kabul, and dozens more in the southern city of Kandahar, the Taliban's main base.

Of the five deaths independently confirmed, four were Afghans who worked for a United Nations-backed mine clearing agency who were in their office when it was hit by a US missile in Kabul on Monday. The other was a 12-year-old girl who died when a bomb blew up part of her house in a village near the city, witnesses told Agence France Presse.

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld dismissed the claim that Washington was deliberately going after non-military targets.

He said civilian casualties were regrettable but inevitable in any conflict, adding that US precision bombs being used in Afghanistan were very good but could not be "100 percent."

"There is no question that I and anyone else involved regret this unintentional loss of life," he said.

FBI warning

As the US continues to pound Afghanistan, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) warned of possible new attacks on US soil within the next few days.

Bush said the FBI warning that new attacks on US targets at home and abroad may be imminent was not the first and may not be the last.

An FBI statement warning of possible new attacks was brief and short on details.

"Certain information, while not specific as to target, gives the government reason to believe that there may be additional terrorist attacks within the United States and against US interests overseas over the next several days.

"The FBI has again alerted all local law enforcement to be on the highest alert and we call on all people to immediately notify the FBI and local law enforcement of any unusual or suspicious activity," the statement said.

The statement seemed certain to exacerbate anxiety in a nation already unnerved by last month's attacks and subsequent scares of possible germ warfare sparked by recent cases of the rare disease anthrax.

Justice Department spokeswoman Mindy Tucker declined to say what had triggered the warning, saying that was classified.

Outrage

Muslims outraged at the raids on Afghanistan staged protests in countries including Bangladesh, Jordan, South Africa, India, Iran, Pakistan and Indonesia.

Alarm rippled among Western expatriates in the Gulf after a Canadian was shot dead in Kuwait in what appeared to be a response to the US air raids. A German couple in Saudi Arabia was attacked with a Molotov cocktail but escaped injury.

A US Air Force sergeant on duty in the northern Arabian peninsula became the first American fatality of the war when he was killed in an accident.

Former US President Bill Clinton canceled a trip to the United Arab Emirates "due to the current international situation," organizers said.

A radical Indonesian group—the small but vocal Islamic Defenders Front—said it would seek to drive Americans and Britons out of the country after the government ignored a deadline to cut ties with the United States.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair acknowledged that Western countries were in danger of losing the propaganda battle for Arab and Muslim support.

Blair, touring the Middle East to bolster support for the war on al-Qaida and the Taliban, told reporters: "One thing becoming increasingly clear to me is the need to upgrade our media and public opinion operations in the Arab and Muslim world. There is a need for us to communicate effectively."

At the White House, Bush called on every child in America to donate one dollar to help a child in Afghanistan, part of a continuing US effort to convince Muslims around the world that the United States had no quarrel with the Afghan people but only with their leaders. ***Reports from Reuters and AFP***

Hotlines vs gossip

(From page A1)

the President yesterday ordered all government departments to put up 24-hour "truth hotlines" to counter the spread of mischievous or even destructive rumors sweeping the country.

Once operational, the hotlines will help suppress one national weakness—gossiping. But it may likely encourage another: making *telebabad*. The President's idea includes posting "government experts" with "extensive knowledge" to field the phone calls. Considering how time-consuming the unique Filipino practice of telephoning can be, however, she should have included "infinite patience" among the requirements too.

The announcement was made yesterday during her weekly press conference. "Philippine society is like one big rumor factory," she said in Taglish, noting that the rumors grew worse amid trying times.

For an example, she cited the "biological warfare" rumor that started with an outbreak of flu in several schools.

On the US and British military offensive against the Taliban in Afghanistan, Ms Macapagal said that some sectors were spreading the rumor that the military strikes were aimed at eliminating all Muslims and eradicating Islam from the face of the earth.

"This is not true," she said in Filipino.

Modern gadgets

The swift spreading of rumors, she said, is made easier through the use of modern communications equipment like mobile phones, e-mail and fax machines.

This, she added, is fueled by fear, spread by those with malicious minds and accepted by people who are unable to discuss it with people in authority.

These rumors result in weakening the people's support for government, she concluded.

And because of this, she said "truth hotlines" were needed in all departments.

"I am ordering all the departments to put up 24-hour hotlines so that people can call up and clarify rumors that they pick up," she said.

"These hotlines will be maintained by government experts who have extensive knowledge of events within the country and abroad," she added.

These experts would be tasked to explain the events, straighten out the rumors, tell the truth, give advice and dispel fears.

The most important agencies that should put up the hotlines, Macapagal said, are the departments of national defense, health, trade, and interior and local government.

In addition, President Macapagal named the military, the police and the National Bureau of Investigation as other "important" agencies.

Second statement

The hotline numbers, Ms Macapagal said, would be disseminated in the coming days.

"I am appealing to the people. Do not believe the rumors, investigate before making a decision. Do not help spread rumors, it would only create disorder in society," she said in Filipino.

It was the second time that Ms Macapagal came out with a statement against the spread of rumors.

The first one was made last week, amid allegations that her husband, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, was involved in a group that "milked" the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office of millions of pesos.

4 'Arabs' . . .

(From page A1)

Two days after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C., the four proceeded to Basilan to meet with Janjalani and the other leaders of the Basilan-based Abu Sayyaf.

It remains unclear what the exact purpose of the foreigners is. Neither is it certain if they are still with Janjalani's group.

The two American hostages, Martin and Grácia Burnham, and the 12 other Filipino hostages were also sighted with the main group led by Janjalani, also in the general area of Lantawan, Basilan.

According to an eyewitness, the Burnhams were the only ones who were handcuffed and guarded 24 hours a day while the rest of the hostages were allowed to mingle with the rest of the Abu Sayyaf members.

The same eyewitness told this reporter that a courier from Basilan delivered several boxes of Anchor milk and Argentina corned beef as part of the supply for the Burnham couple. The rest of the hostages had dried fish and canned sardines last week.

Al-Qaida

A separate intelligence report by the Central Intelligence Agency identified the Abu Sayyaf as one of the Asian-based Islamic fundamentalist groups "maintained" by the al-Qaida network of suspected terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden.

In that report, marked "Secret" and distributed recently to local police and intelligence units, the CIA warned of more "qualitative" operations that may be carried out by groups sympathetic to Bin Laden.

Several meetings were held in the last two weeks between US intelligence operatives and their Philippine counterparts, the primary purpose of which was the sharing of intelligence information. An intelligence official who attended the meeting told this reporter that the need for "quality human intelligence" in the region was stressed.

The report warned of the real dangers of a biological or chemical attack by groups identified with and supportive of the al-Qaida network.

In the said intelligence briefing material, local operatives were told that sometime in 1994, Bin Laden "attempted to obtain components of weapons of mass destruction."

Armed followers

Aside from the Abu Sayyaf, members of the al-Qaida network also reportedly touched base with some key leaders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which has about 12,000 armed followers.

From 1998, mujahiden (holy warriors) from Asia, Africa and the Middle East received rigid training from various camps maintained by the al-Qaida forces in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

A number of MILF and Abu Sayyaf members were said to be among those trained between 1998 and the middle of this year.

Twenty Filipinos who trained in al-Qaida camps are reportedly back in the Philippines, according to an earlier intelligence report released by the Armed Forces.

Those who trained in Bin Laden's camps reportedly received both "paramilitary and Islamic law training covering the following areas of specialization: 1. military activities and control—military discipline and code of ethics; 2. light weapons—small firearms; 3. heavy weapons—specialized training given only to selected members; 4. booby traps—teaches members how to make exploding booby traps and how to target sensitive parts on a person's body with these devices; 5. land navigation—a specialized course that teaches the practical application of land navigation; 6. urban warfare—teaches techniques such as how to use a building for cover, how to fight from foxholes and or bunker; 7. Assassination—plans and techniques on killing people. This training also tackles different strategies to use in killing people such as food poisoning; 8. Communications—members are taught how to cut phone wires, how to use radios, how to use and change exhaustive field preparations.",

(The contributor, producer-anchor of a news program at NET 25, is a freelance broadcast and print journalist. She is finishing a book called "My Affair with the Abu Sayyaf: A Journalist's Story." She received the Rotary Club of Manila Excellence in TV Journalism award in 2000.)

US Pacific chief coming as adviser

(From page A1)

"They will be around just to ensure that the equipment (that will be provided) will be properly adapted to the situation here," he said.

Villanueva said the Abu Sayyaf was considered an international terrorist group—the reason, he said, that the Americans were interested in helping the Philippine government.

"Let's say that we could be more adequately equipped and properly prepared to (fight) international terrorism (with their assistance)," he said.

No way

Golez said the US team would "not in any way be active in operations."

"They will have a face-to-face meeting with AFP officials and may probably get a briefing from the Southern Command," he said at a news briefing. "We don't know yet (what their other activities might be). They might want aerial observations."

He said the team would possibly fly over Basilan and other areas in Mindanao where the Abu Sayyaf was known to hide, "probably (so) they would be acquainted with the terrain."

"The terrain in Basilan has no similarity to the kind of terrain that the US military would be familiar with in continental USA," he pointed out.

Golez said the US military officers would arrive in the "next few weeks" and stay for "just a few days."

He said the composition of the team was still being finalized.

"When you speak of a team like this, it will basically be military," he said. "But sometimes they have civilians there who might hang on . . . Maybe the FBI might want to join for data and intelligence collection. So we don't have a final listing yet. Essentially, it will be a military team."

Golez said the team would meet with Villanueva and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes to "assess the training requirements" of the Philippine military specifically with regard to fighting terrorism, and the "tactical details" of counter-terrorism operations.

He named the special equipment that the team would bring as "night fighting equipment, night visibility equipment, special ammunition, special gadgets, flak jackets to protect themselves during very high-risk, close-in operations."

Upper hand

Golez also said that the military had the upper hand in the new clashes that erupted yesterday after three Abu Sayyaf hostages managed to flee their captors.

But he said that even if the military won over the Abu Sayyaf, it would still need the help of the US experts.

"Yes, we will need (them)," he said. "We need to upgrade the counter-terrorist capability of the Philippine military because it has trained only one light reaction company. And we need more training for more counter-terrorist units, equipment, as well as the continuing exchange of intelligence information."

Villanueva confirmed that most of the war equipment used by the Light Rifle Company of the 103rd and 102nd Army Brigades in Basilan had come from the United States at "no cost."

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, through his acting spokesperson Col. Francisco Gudani, said the military in Mindanao was in need of improving transportation, firepower and communications assets.

According to Gudani, there is no need to seek approval from Congress for the assistance to be given by the US government.

Villanueva said the President had already approved the "expressed commitment" of the US government.

Training only

Senators Blas Ople, Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Rodolfo Biazon said US participation in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf should be limited to training Filipino soldiers or holding exercises with them and providing equipment.

Magsaysay, who chairs the Senate committee on national defense and security, said any US involvement in combat operations against the Abu Sayyaf would "complicate matters."

But he expressed approval for the arrival of the US team, saying the AFP had "to learn new ways of warfare against terrorism."

Biazon, vice chair of the committee, said the arrival of the US team "could be a prelude to the implementation of the RP-US military assistance agreement, which may involve the turnover of equipment and training of our soldiers."

"At the most, joining training exercises between US and Philippine troops against terrorism is tolerable," he said in a statement.

Biazon warned against allowing the US team to be directly involved in policies, plans and the conduct of strategic and tactical operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

He said this could trigger mass protest actions.

Ople said the Senate would reject any participation of the US or other foreign troops in the hunt for members of the Abu Sayyaf.

"I want to assure you that the Philippines will not be a new Vietnam," Ople said.

He reminded reporters of the arrival of US advisers in Vietnam during the 1960s, which; he said, eventually led to the entry of US armed forces in the civil war there.

Objections

Militant groups urged Congress to ban the entry of US troops and matériel in the country.

"We will not allow the Philippine government to give a red-carpet welcome and Filipino hospitality to US war advisers, together with their troops and weapons. The country should not be involved in the global slaughter of innocent people and sovereign nations," said Pamalakaya chair Rodolfo Sambajon.

Fisherfolk activists allied with Pamalakaya will hold a fluvial rally on Oct. 17 to denounce "US economic crimes."

The Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR) urged the President to withdraw support for the US-led military attack on Afghanistan, saying this was fast spreading "grave divisions, hatred, death and destruction on a global scale."

PCPR spokesperson Fr. Allan Arcebuche said that while the US government had claimed that the air strikes targeted only the Taliban and its training camps, "the lives and homes of the Afghan people are actually the ones being crushed by this unjust US retaliation."

"It is absolutely unjust to keep dropping medicines and food aid at the same time that American war planes are dropping deadly bombs on the same people below," Arcebuche said.

He said the strikes had also affected Filipino families and children whose parents were working in the Middle East.

"We are deeply concerned with the plight of overseas Filipino workers as much as we are concerned with the growing number of war refugees due to the continued US attacks," he said. *With reports from Christine Avendaño, Gerald G. Lacuarta and Andrea Trinidad-Echavez*

Business as usual for Pinoy workers

(From page A1)

the Middle East to be alarmed. Our moves here will depend on the situation in Afghanistan and the Middle East."

"When it comes to overseas Filipino workers, much of the effect on the workers' deployment program might be felt next year. That is, if the conflict lasts. But we're closely monitoring the situation," Baldoz said.

Oplan Aquila

Malacañang does not see the need to immediately repatriate the more than 1.4 million Filipinos currently stationed in the Middle East.

Their evacuation was among the measures discussed during a meeting last week of the Cabinet Oversight Committee (COC) on internal security.

"The assessment is that (evacuation) may not be necessary considering that the bulk of our workers are based far from the field of conflict," Tiglao said.

If "Oplan Aquila" is activated, the government will charter commercial flights that will "move OFWs out of danger to safer areas, not to the Philippines."

The Saudi Arabian government has agreed to allow Filipino workers in neighboring Middle East nations to seek refuge in the kingdom if the situation in Afghanistan worsens.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez called the repatriation of OFWs a "remote possibility."

"In the COC meeting and even in the statements issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs, it was recognized that the areas where Filipino workers are concentrated are too far from the area of conflict," Golez said.

Despite the bombings in Afghanistan, "there is still no danger to Filipinos living in the peripheral areas," Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson pointed out.

But Imson said the government was ready to evacuate OFWs "once the need arises."

"As of now, we're on top of the situation. We are closely monitoring the developments and we have the capability to respond if anything worse happens," Imson assured.

Land and sea

Between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30 this year, the government deployed a total of 679,040 contract workers overseas. The vast majority—528,360—were land-based. The rest were seamen. This represents a slight increase of 2.6 percent over the deployment figures last year, when a total of 661,583 workers left the country for posting abroad.

Of this year's land-based workers, 326,042 are classified as "rehires." The rest are "new hires."

The number of workers deployed is distinct from the number of Filipino workers currently abroad, which is estimated at over 5 million.

In 2000, Filipinos working abroad remitted some $6.05 billion, an 11-percent decline from the previous year's $6.8 billion. In the first five months of 2001, remittances reached $2.24 billion, a 13-percent drop from the same period last year.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas documents showed that in 2000, the United States remained the top source of remittances, accounting for $3.9 billion or 65 percent of the total, with Asia a distant second at $832 million. Remittances from the Middle East reached $594 million.

In the first five months of 2001, remittances from the Middle East hit $294 million, up by a third from the same period last year.

Top 10 destinations

Deployment of overseas contract workers
(January to August 2001)

Saudi Arabia	140,277
Hong Kong	88,834
Japan	47,071
United Arab Emirates	30,852
Taiwan	29,281
Singapore	19,548
Italy	16,206
Kuwait	14,480
Brunei	9,659
United Kingdom	7,663

Contract workers were also deployed in Israel (2,942), Lebanon (1,903), Iran (479), India (180), Iraq (68) and Pakistan (13).

SOURCE: POEA

Workers' sentiment

Citing reports from labor and welfare officers in Kuwait, Bahrain, Libya and Saudi Arabia, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration noted that "sentiments of OFWs in those areas indicate that they opted to stay put in their work places despite a military option by the US."

"OFWs in other Middle East countries also said they preferred to stay in their respective job sites. In case of military strikes by American forces, the Filipino workers expressed willingness to be moved to safer grounds along with their foreign employers," an Owwa document reported.

According to Owwa administrator Wilhelm Soriano, "our countrymen working abroad have displayed a deep sense of concern for their foreign principals since they felt it was not right to leave their employers in the most trying times."

Soriano assured families of OFWs of the government's "preparedness in facing the situation affecting our OFWs."

The Owwa has allocated at least P700 million for a possible evacuation and repatriation of Filipino workers and an additional "stand-by fund" of P200 million.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas admitted, however, that the government could afford to repatriate only 50,000 of the 1.4 million OFWs in the area, because of budget limitations.

Earlier, Soriano announced that an Owwa task force had been activated to "complement the efforts of the DFA, POEA and the Department of Labor and Employment."

"Personnel manning the task force round-the-clock will be on hand to answer queries of families of OFWs regarding the condition of the their loved ones in Middle East countries and surrounding areas that may be affected by military strikes of US forces," Soriano said.

Meanwhile, employers in the Middle East have resorted to "package deals" and "promo offers"s to persuade Filipino workers to stay put despite the ongoing conflict.

In Saudi Arabia, "promotions are given to professionals and other white-collar workers and technical people," according to Zenobia Caro, Owwa supervisor for Southern Mindanao.

Besides, Caro said, Filipino workers are "not inclined to leave their jobs since they have no means of making a living here." *With reports from Juliet L. Javellana, Gerard Lacuarta and Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau.*

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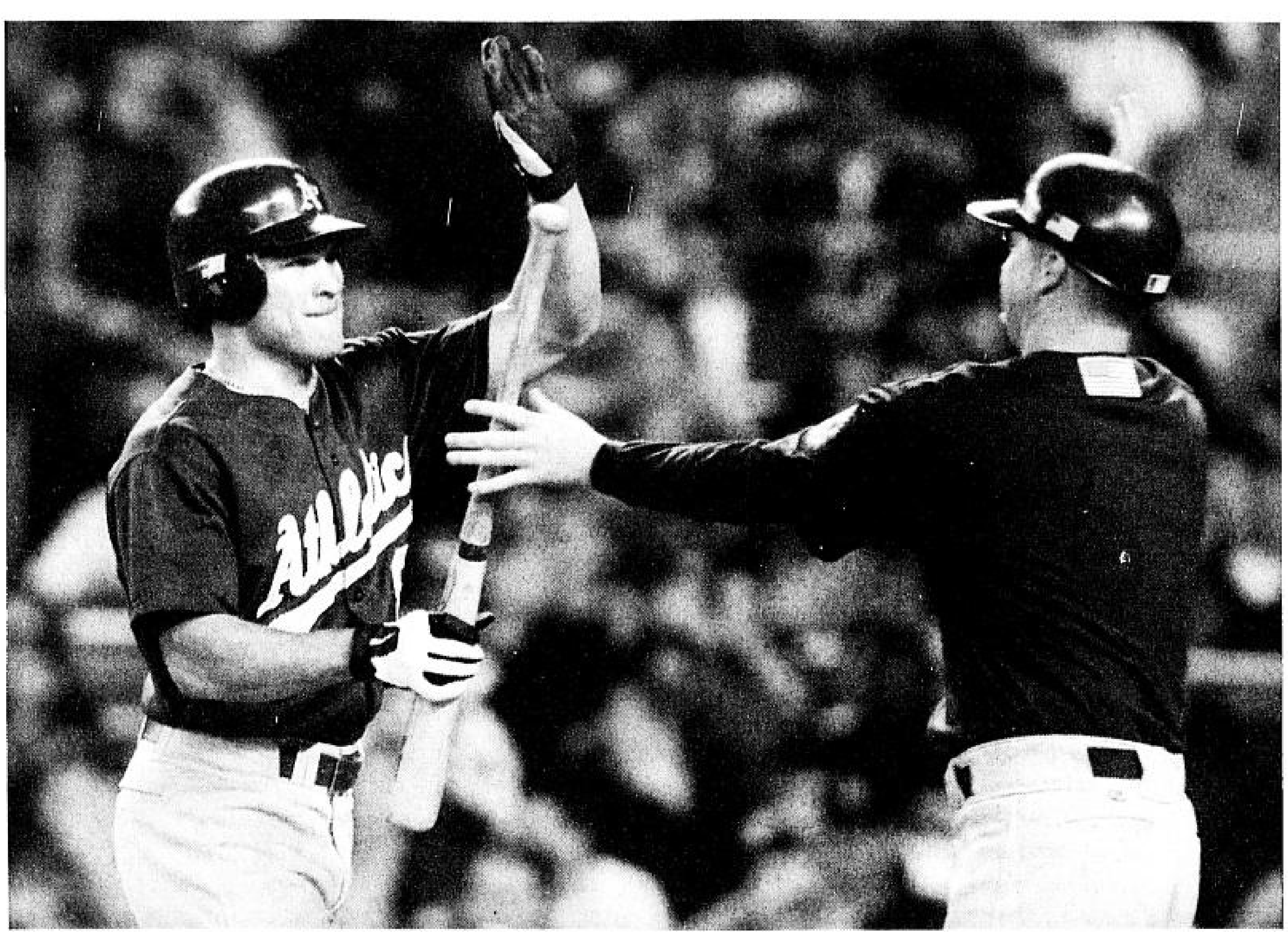


OAKLAND Athletics Johnny Damon (left) gets a high-five from the ball boy after scoring off a single by Miguel Tejada in the ninth inning during their game against the New York Yankees in the American League Division Series. The Athletics won the game, 2-0, for a 2-0 lead. AFP

Athletics deal Yankees another loss

3-time champion New York needs miracle to survive crisis

NEW YORK—Oakland pitcher Tim Hudson became the second young ace to extinguish the Yankees' offense as Ron Gant homered early Thursday and Athletics beat New York, 2-0, to head home with a 2-0 lead in their first-round American League playoff series.

After becoming only the fourth team to win three consecutive World Series titles, the Yankees must win three consecutive games to extend their run.

We didn't expect to come in here to Yankee Stadium and win two games against that club, Hudson said. We battled, we stayed poised and we found a way to squeeze a couple of runs across.

New York's veteran players look a little bit past their prime, unable to muscle their way out of trouble anymore.

I don't know about old. But they're certainly making us eat some dust right now, Yankees manager Joe Torre said. What we have to do is what we've done before, not necessarily in postseason: We have to go on a three-game winning streak.

After escaping a two-on, no-out jam in the ninth inning, the A's headed home to a ballpark where they won their last 17 home games of the regular season. Barry Zito (17-8), another of the left-handers who have given the Yankees difficulty this year, starts for the A's on Saturday against Mike Mussina (17-11).

Memories of last year's Game 5 playoff loss to the Yankees in Oakland—when they fell behind 6-0 in the first inning—are in the minds of the A's players.

I think it's more of a maturity thing, Oakland manager Art Howe said. Being there last year, getting a taste of it, coming so close.

Hudson, backed by Gant's fourth-inning homer and a ninth-inning run on an error by Scott Brosius, held the Yankees to one hit in the first five innings, then escaped jams in the sixth and seventh.

Pitching inside to back up batters and keep them from extending their arms over the plate, he retired 12 in a row after Derek Jeter's first-inning single and allowed six hits in all before Jason Isringhausen took over to start the ninth.

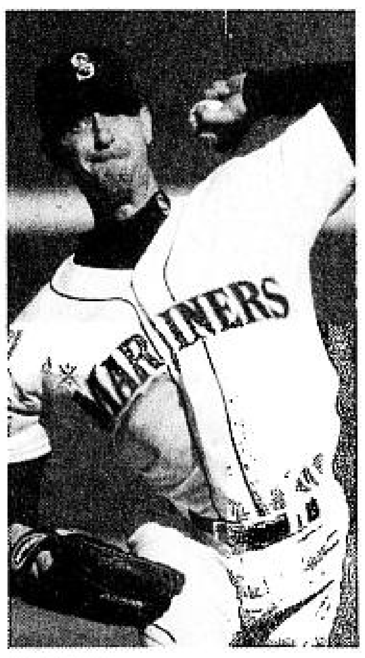
Isringhausen walked a fine line. Bernie Williams doubled off the glove of third baseman Eric Chavez leading off and Tino Martinez walked, creating more drama. *AP*

Mariners top Indians

SEATTLE —Jamie Moyer took a shutout into the seventh inning Thursday and the Seattle Mariners used three homers to bounce back and even their AL playoff series at one game apiece with a 5-1 win over the Cleveland Indians.

The 38-year-old Moyer, who won a career-high 20 games during the regular season and beat Cleveland twice, allowed five hits and one run in just the second postseason appearance of his 14-year career.

He missed a chance to pitch last October when he broke his kneecap during a simulated-game tuneup before the American League Championship Series.



MOYER

I want strongest team–Tiny

By Marc Anthony Reyes

"I ONLY want the strongest basketball team possible."

Thus said Tiny Literal yesterday as he finally broke his silence on whether he wants an all-PBA team or a selection with some MBA (Metropolitan Basketball Association) stars for next year's Asian Games.

Still in Dipolog City to monitor basketball preparations for the First Mindanao Friendship Games, Literal said it was up to the BAP board to decide on the composition of the team although he is personally pushing for a team which has the strongest chance of winning the gold medal.

"I can't say right now what's the BAP's stand because although I am the recognized BAP president, I'm not the BAP itself," said Literal of the Memorandum of Agreement the PBA signed with the BAP under its previous administration.

Literal said he would be back in Manila Oct. 20 to convene the BAP board and tackle the issue once and for all.

He said the MBA is also strongly pushing for the Asiad participation and is open to a compromise with the PBA. But PBA commissioner wants blanket authority from the BAP with regard to the composition of the team and coaching staff, and training of the squad.

"We will talk about these things but our main concern, of course, is to form the strongest possible team and give them the longest possible preparation," said Literal, who admitted that a PBA-MBA selection would take longer time to train than an all-PBA squad.

The PBA earlier expressed enthusiasm over the prospects of wearing the national colors for the fourth straight time.

The country last won the Asian Games gold in 1962 in Jakarta, with the legendary Caloy Loyzaga spearheading the campaign.

LBC Blades massacre TPG Eagles, 122-105

GAMES TOMORROW
(St. La Salle Lipa)
3 p.m.—Socsargen-Taguig vs Negros
5:30 p.m.—Cebuana Lhuillier vs LBC Batangas

DAVAO CITY—Deadly on offense, sticky on defense. These were the LBC Batangas Blades when they downed the TPG Davao Eagles, 122-105, yesterday to gain a share of the lead in the MBA Second Phase.

Trailing the Eagles in the first quarter, the Blades went on a scoring spree and tightened their defenses in the second period to seize control at 58-40 en route to their sixth win in seven starts.

Allowing the Eagles to come to within eight points, the Blades, behind Eddie Laure and Romel Adducul, again ripped the game apart in the fourth quarter as the Davaoeños' relaxed their guards.

Laure scored just 14 points, but grabbed 11 rebounds, issued three assists and had one steal to earn best player honors for LBC Batangas, which caught up with Andok's San Juan at the helm of the Northern Conference.

So deadly were the Blades that apart from Laure, seven others also drilled in twin digits with Jeffrey Sanders coming through with 18 points, Adducul 16, Alex Compton 15, John Bautista 13, Tonyboy Espinosa 12, Chuchu Serrano 11, and Ralph Rivera 11.

With the Blades in command, 112-94, and time down to the last three minutes coach Nash Racela opted to take out his starters to preserve them for the tougher grind ahead.

The Eagles, however, failed to capitalize as 6-foot-6 Chris Corbin, filling in for Adducul, pumped in six points in a 10-3 run that sealed the outcome for the Blades at 122-101.

FedEx Laguna routed Nueva Ecija, 109-66, at the San Luis Sports Complex in Sta. Cruz, Laguna to improve to 4-3. Nueva Ecija tasted its fifth straight defeat after winning its first two games.

Scores:

LBC BATANGAS 122—Sanders 18, Adducul 16, Compton 15, Laure 14, Ramirez 13, Espinosa 12, Rivera 11, Serrano 11, Corbin 8, Mapalad 4.

TPG DAVAO 105—Marata 23, Simon 22, Bernardo 19, Caliao 9, Lopez 8, Sasuman 7, Maloloy-on 7, Dela Rosa 6, Santander 2, Concha 2.

Quarters: 24-30, 58-40, 91-69, 122-105.

Osaka out; Guardo cites Cebu position

By Dennis U. Eroa

OSAKA Iridology, whose core is made up of La Salle dribblers, took an indefinite leave of absence, leaving the PBL with seven teams in the 3rd Challenge Cup which unwraps on Nov. 3 at the Makati Coliseum.

In a letter to PBL Commissioner Chino Trinidad, team owner Jonathan Guardo cited his commitment as chair of the Cebu City Sports Commission as the main reason for his decision not to field a team this year.

"I feel that I cannot do justice performing important duties at the same time," the Cebu-based Guardo told Trinidad. Guardo is also president of the Cebuano Basketball League.

Guardo is also spearheading Cebu's bid to become co-host of the 2005 Southeast Asian Games. "I'm going to focus on the SEA Games because this is a national endeavor," Guardo said.

Despite Osaka's decision, Trinidad remained upbeat that the Green Archers will be able to compete in the coming conference. "I respect Mr. Guardo's decision. Osaka is always welcome to return," Trinidad said. While declining to mention specifics, Trinidad said negotiations are ongoing for a corporation to sponsor La Salle.

Mizuno set up for grabs in Beda golf

FUN, camaraderie, prizes, food and matching of golf skills await the players of the Red and White Golf Classic 2001 on Oct. 19 at Capitol.

Tee-off time is 6:30 a.m. in the 18-hole event sponsored by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, K-Lite 103.5 FM and Master Sports House, which is donating a Mizuno Iron set as a hole-in-one prize.

The event is organized by the San Beda High School Class of 1977 for the benefit of the benedictine community, school projects and the silver Jubilee Homecoming. Interested Bedans and friends, call Lyn at 712-02-45 for further details.

Sobrepeña Cup slated Nov. 7

THE 2ND Sobrepeña Cup, Fil-Estate Sports Foundation's third year anniversary special charity golf tournament organized by board director and CAP President Enrique Sobrepeña, is slated on Nov. 7 at the Southwoods Legends.

Together with title sponsors CAP Philippines and Mitsubishi Motors, the event is for the benefit of the tennis scholars of the Manila Southwoods Tennis Academy, which was launched in 1998 by Enrique's son, Robert John Sobrepeña, to tap potential tennis talents from the grassroots level.

"I believe that Filipinos excel in tennis," said Sobrepeña, who is a staunch supporter of tennis and golf in the country.

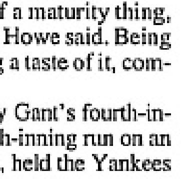
A brand-new Mitsubishi Lancer GSR is at stake as a hole-in-one prize. Hole sponsors of the tournament are San Miguel Corporation, Camp John Hay, MRT, Fairways and Bluewater Resort Golf & Country Club, Forest Hills Golf and Country Club, Manila Southwoods Manor, Manila Southwoods Sports Club, Renaissance Towers, Wilson Sports, Bong Lopez and Glenn Macatulad.

Deadline of submission of entries is on Nov. 4. Interested parties may contact Len Gregorio at 0917-8990756 for more details.

Menk's chances brighten

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao



CHINESE Olympian Menk Batere's chances of making the NBA grade with the Denver Nuggets this season have been brightened with the impending knee surgery to All-Star forward Antonio McDyess.

Already troubled by the dearth of big men who can patrol the middle—6-11 Raef La Fentz, who has started at center in recent years, and reserves Kevin Willis and Aleksandar Radojevic are the only veteran centers on the team—the Nuggets' frontline faces more problems with the injury to the 6-9 McDyess, who is expected to be sidelined at least until January following surgery for a partial tear of his patella tendon in his left knee and a mild sprain of the medial collateral ligament.

Enter 6-11 Menk, who at 290 pounds has the physique to battle the dinosaurs in the NBA even though he is the least talented among the three Chinese centers who were collectively known as the "Walking Great Wall" of China during the 2000 Sydney Olympics and also is the oldest at age 26.

Menk inked a non-guaranteed contract with the Nuggets as a free agent. Because of his age, he earned free-agent status and did not need to pass through the NBA draft. The league's draft system calls for players outside of the US (and in non-US schools) who are less than 22 years old to apply under the early-entry rule (which means they have to inform the NBA of their availability at least 45 days before a draft actually takes place) if they wish to join the NBA draft.

Further, Chinese players are prohibited by their government to apply for the NBA draft until they are 22 years old. They also need permission from their local clubs.

In the case of Menk, he was an NBA draft eligible in 1997 when he turned 22. Unfortunately, Menk was bypassed by all NBA clubs.

Should Menk earn a roster berth with the Nuggets, he would become the second Chinese player to suit up in the NBA, joining Dallas frontliner Wang Zhizhi, who was inked by the Mavericks to a two-year pact in April worth a little less than $800,000. The 7-1 Wang appeared in five regular games and averaged 4.8 points (on 8-19 FG, 8-10 FT shooting) and 1.4 rebounds in 7.6 minutes an outing. He posted a career-high 13 markers in a season-high 17 minutes in the Mavs' season finale against Minnesota.

Menk, who forms part of China's Triple Towers along with Wang and 7-5, 20-year-old Yao Ming, hails from Inner Mongolia. He played locally for the Beijing Ducks in the Chinese National Basketball League and averaged double figures in points and rebounds last season.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO By MR. 999

Race 1—1. Judicial System 2. Big Treasure 3. Carlo's Charm 4. Claro Di Ba
Race 2—1. Royal Angel 2. Little Voices 3. Katya 4. Union City Boy
Race 3—1. Proud Idol 2. Noble Regent 3. Legend of Gaiya 4. Sheer Courage
Race 4—1. Free Wind 2. Maayo Kaayo 3. The Jackal 4. Rosinante 5. Compañero
Race 5—1. Time For Miracles 2. Premiere Event 3. Wishing Well
Race 6—1. Gun Express 2. Summer Dreams 3. Big Kahuna 4. Jules
Race 7—1. Kiwi Rose 2. High Roller 3. Materiales Fuertes 4. Free Bee 5. Chief Navigator
Race 8—1. Hemisphere 2. Green Leaves 3. Kissin Tzang 4. Rainmaker
Race 9—1. Charisma 2. Radiance 3. Hurry Prince 4. Real McCoy 5. Red Bells
Race 10—1. Perfect Gift/Native Talent 2. Uzisaki 3. Big Boss 4. Spoiler 5. Money in Motion 6. Let Me Pass
Race 11—1. El Magnifico 2. Jhelen 3. Strong Alphonse
Race 12—1. Front Page 2. Knows Love 3. Irish Diplomat/Sweet Justice 4. Irish Lover 5. Acalanes
Race 13—1. As For Me 2. Traktora 3. Bull Dancing 4. Standout 5. Choice For Change 6. Baptism of Fire

DERBY WATCH

Mandaluyong derby; Salud champ

BIG-TIME cockers collide in a one-day showdown tonight as Mandaluyong Coliseum's 4-stag derby gets under way at 6 p.m. bannering more than 50 fights. The derby's sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

Admission fee has been lowered to P500 for ringside and P250 for general admission. Derby hosts are Ucap's screening committee members Tiago Cerilla, Ariel Garovillo and Rey Oliveros.

Seeing action are Boy Diaz, Sandy Javier, Vic Yu, Patrick Antonio, Raymond Velayo, Ram Lopez, Sonny Ligon, Biboy Enriquez, Joey Lapid, Pol Estrellado, Boyboy Roa, Boy de Roca, Mauro Prieto, Mario Antonio, Verden Andal, William Go, Boyet Plaza, Peping Suarez, Doc Aning, Manny Valera, Mike Romulo and Judge Paneda.

Last Thursday, lawyer Rudy Salud's bet, GF-Ban Bacolod Group, emerged solo champion in the "5th Ucap/Firebird 7-Stag Derby.

Meanwhile, the "6th Ucap 7-Stag Derby," a joint promotion of businessman Vic Yu and Ram Lopez, fires off this coming Tuesday and Thursday, Oct. 16 and 18.

Pampanga hosting 'Sagupaan'

PAMPANGA Coliseum, located in San Fernando City, is all set to host the "Sagupaan 4-Stag Smalltime Derby" on Oct. 18, offering a guaranteed prize of P200,000. Entry fee is P5,500.

A huge Sagupaan trophy plus P10,000 will go to the entry that will register the Fastest Kill award. Last Sept. 29, the entry of Jimmy Mariquit of Angeles City won the Fastest Win award, after posting seven seconds.

Screening will be held on the day of the derby, from 6 a.m. to 12 noon.

Aside from the guaranteed prize, derby host Patrick Antonio will also give away a prized Sagupaan trio for the champion, to give the winners a chance to further improve their lines of gamebirds.

The Sagupaan technical group, headed by Antonio, is also providing free technical support to neophyte breeders using the tried and tested training, feeding and conditioning methods that are actually used in the Sagupaan gamefarm of Antonio in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

"I am willing to impart technical knowhow to as many upcoming breeders as possible all over the country to further develop the flourishing gamefowl industry. *Magtulungan tayo*," Antonio said.

Antonio, who is also the host of Sagupaan TV show on IBC-13 every Saturday (12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m.), said that upcoming breeders from Pampanga, Tarlac, Bataan, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Zambales and Pangasinan are taking part in the event.

Roligon to present 'Bench' stagfest

ANOTHER action-packed thriller is on tap today with the holding of the much-awaited Bench 4-Stag Derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City.

Hosted by well-known cocker Ben Chan, the derby will be supported by the Rotary Club of Taguig-West.

Respected derby aficionados have confirmed their participation in this derby sponsored by Ninja Game Fowl Feeds.

Among them are Benjie Lim, Tony Lasala, Muroy Dolorico, Allan & Company, Sonny Lagon, Peping Suarez, Boy Lechon, Dante Eustaquio, Ricky Castillo, Ray and Company, Councilor Freddie Eusebio, Happy Game Farm and lawyer Rudy Salud.

Promoter Danny "Showdown" Ty announced that no less than 50 fights will be presented in this derby which will start at 7 p.m.

He also said that submission of weights between 1.7 kg and 2.1 kg is today from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Other 4-stag derbies scheduled at Roligon are Oct. 20-Mangzee by Bobby del Rosario and Oct. 30-"Tukaan" by Emoy Gorgonia.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

GOLF: Inside the PGA Tour at 11:30 a.m. (r – 7 p.m.) on Star Sports

Golf Classics - The Nearly Men at 6 p.m. on ESPN

PGA National Car Rental Classic, First Round at 6 p.m. on Star Sports

TENNIS: Masters Series (Stuttgart), Early Round Coverage Day #3 at 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. (r), Early Round Coverage Day #4 at 3 p.m. on Star Sports

BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 7:30 p.m. on Star Sports

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL - Buffalo Bills vs Jacksonville Jaguars at midnight on ESPN

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

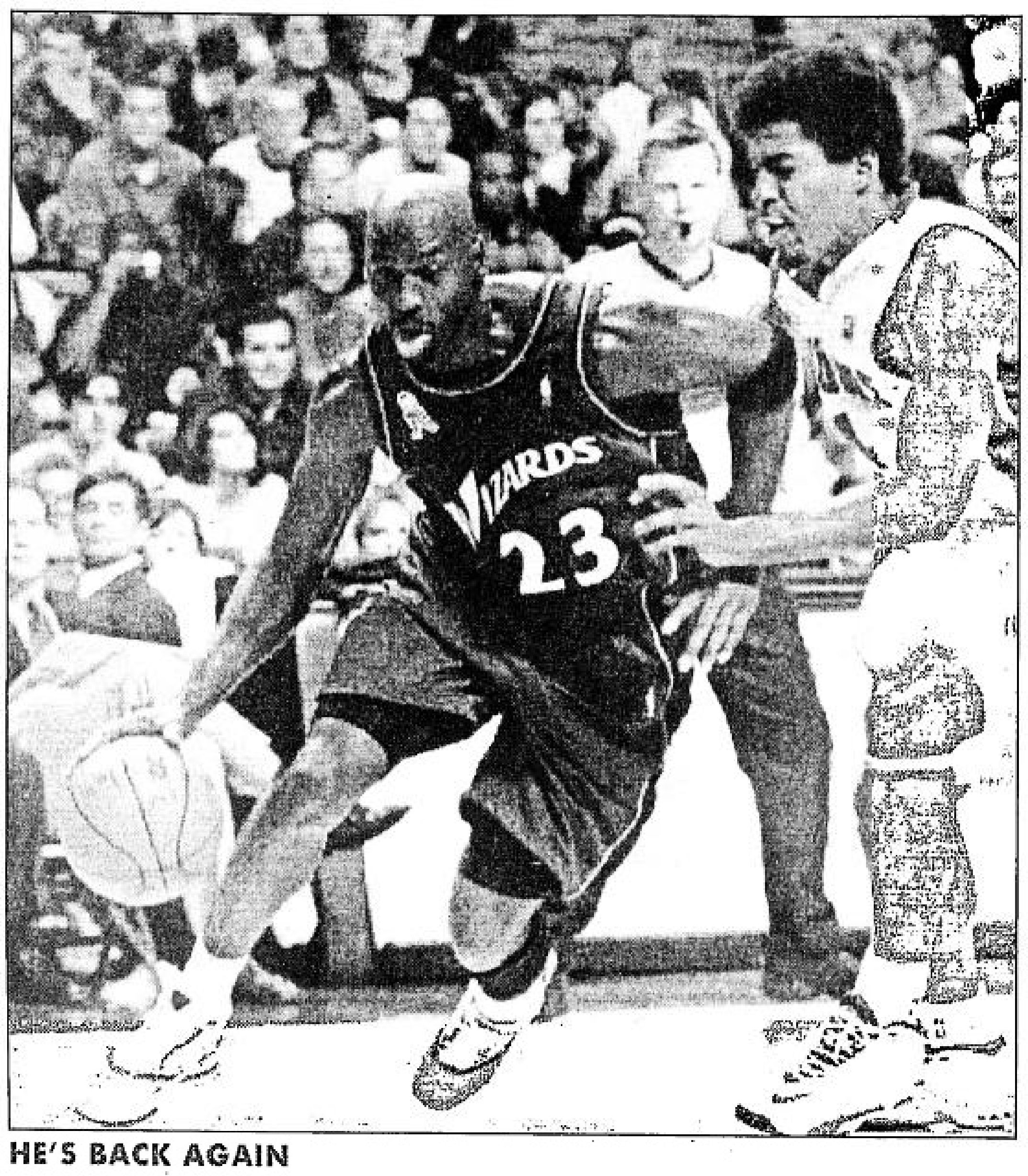
Lim, Preysler to defy POC

WEIGHTLIFTING association vice president Graham Lim and former cycling chief Joaquin Preysler yesterday said they would not submit themselves to the Philippine Olympic Committee arbitration commission if the POC refused to replace arbitration commission leader Claudio Altura of sailing. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

A FIRST IN UAAP HISTORY

GMA to watch Ateneo-La Salle game

BY DENNIS U. EROA



HE'S BACK AGAIN

Jordan (left) of the Washington Wizards drives around Detroit Pistons forward Corliss Williamson during their pre-season game Thursday at the Palace in Auburn Hills, Michigan. The Pistons won, 95-85. AP

THE ALL-OR-NOTHING third game for the UAAP basketball crown between Ateneo and De La Salle on Tuesday will have a very special guest.

Barring any last-minute changes, no less than President Macapagal will join a multitude to watch the Green Archers and the Blue Eagles clash in Game 3 of the best-of-three championship series at the Araneta Coliseum.

MACAPAGAL

It would be a first in the annals of UAAP history. No President has ever watched a championship clash between Ateneo and La Salle.

Macapagal's husband, Mike, is an alumnus of Ateneo.

The INQUIRER learned yesterday that representatives from the Presidential Management Staff, Office of the Press Secretary and the Presidential Security Group joined officials of the Araneta Coliseum and ABA-Phils yesterday in an ocular inspection of the Cubao Big Dome.

They wanted to ensure that the venue is secure when the President shows up to be at ringside for Tuesday's winner-take-all game.

Playing true to form, La Salle, which is seeking its fourth straight crown, and Ateneo, which hopes to start its own version of a UAAP dynasty, split their first two games.

The Archers won Game 1, 74-68, but the Blue Eagles rebounded with an ego-boosting 76-72 triumph in Game Two, forcing Tuesday's decider.

"It was agreed upon that the television panel will be transferred to another spot in the Big Dome in order for the President to sit at the center," said an INQUIRER source, who joined the inspection. The INQUIRER also learned that the team has reserved 10 seats for the President's party. She will deliver a short speech before the opening tipoff.

No reason was given for the presidential decision to watch the game, set to start at 5 p.m.

Before the decision to watch Tuesday's clash, former President Ramos used to watch big golf tournaments while the late President Marcos loved watching boxing bouts, including the world-famous 1974 Thrilla in Manila between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier.

The La Salle-Ateneo series has overshadowed other sports events. Tickets to the game have been sold out as early as last week, making the series a delight for scalpers.

If there's one more link to Ateneo other than her husband being an Ateneo law graduate, the President, a product of Assumption, had taught at Ateneo before she entered politics.

Lehman bundles records

LAS VEGAS, Nevada—Veteran Tom Lehman went on a record making spree here Thursday during the second round of the $4.5 million Invensys Classic.

When he was finished, he had set or tied four scoring records and held a three-shot lead over first round co-leader Fred Couples.

Chris DiMarco spoiled Lehman's day when he finished 11-under-par 61 to set set a course record and moved into third place, four shots behind.

John Daly is five shots back with Robert Allenby, Bob Estes and Craig Parry another stroke behind. *AFP*

PBA reiterates ban on Alvarado

BY JONG ARCANO

WARY over reports that banned player Sonny Alvarado has returned, the Philippine Basketball Association yesterday sought clarification from the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation to determine whether the banned player has re-entered the country or not.

PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino's letter to BID commissioner Andrea Domingo manifested his concern over persistent rumors that Alvarado is already in the country and conditioning himself for a much -awaited return.

The BID has yet to respond to Bernardino's letter.

The commissioner's office also sent out letters to all teams in the league to reiterate the PBA ban on Alvarado.

Based on the banishment and deportation order issued by BID on falsification of documents, the PBA told the teams that Alvarado will remain banned from the league.

Alvarado, who had played for the Tanduay Rhum team, was ordered deported by the BID on May 23, 2000. He was blacklisted and was forever barred from entering the country.

San Mig trips Pop Cola, 86-84

DANNY Ildefonso nailed two pressure-packed free throws in the final 4.6 seconds as San Miguel Beer broke a four-game losing spell, beating Pop Cola, 86-84, last night in the PBA Governors Cup at the Astrodome.

Pop's Poch Juinio tied the game at 84 with a tip-in with only 27 seconds to go before the Beermen dropped their final offensive anchored on Ildefonso.

In the second game, Talk N Text defeated Barangay Ginebra 81-78, to climb to 6-2. The Gin Kings fell to 3-4.

The Beermen improved to 3-4 while the Panthers dropped to 4-4.

GAME TODAY *(Bago City)*

4 p.m. Sta. Lucia vs Purefoods

Jordan's intelligence is what counts

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IT was a defeat that didn't hurt. It was an exhibition game, yes, but to a sellout crowd of 22,076 at the Palace of Auburn Hills in Michigan, that was not what mattered. What mattered was, they saw the first game of Michael Jordan three years after he left the sport. To them, it was like they saw man finally land on Mars.

Jordan's charisma hasn't waned one bit.

Jordan and the Washington Wizards lost to the Detroit Pistons yesterday in a pre-season NBA game that was more of a Jordan show than anything. An understatement. He was everything during yesterday's Wizard-Piston match.

He was the last player to be introduced. But he got the loudest cheers.

"Boos would not surprise me," Jordan said after the game. "Cheers is certainly a respectful thing, and I appreciate that, but I'm just going out there to play the game and hopefully I can go out there and do something."

He more than did something 40 months or so after playing his final game for the Chicago Bulls in June 1998.

He blocked the first shot of the game yesterday. With his patented soar, Jordan swooped into the lane from the foul line and blocked a shot by Pistons forward Ben Wallance 18 seconds into the game.

He missed his first shot, a 3-pointer. But he scored the game's first points—a 20-foot jumper in front of Corliss Williamson.

He played 8:08 minutes in the first quarter, getting replaced by Tyrone Nesby with 3:52 remaining. By then, he had made 2-of-5, grabbed three rebounds, taken one steal to add to that one blocked shot. He had one foul.

"I don't want to disappoint anybody," he said after the game.

Jordan had planned to sit out yesterday's game.

"The league called and said all these people are expecting Michael to play," Wizards coach Doug Collins said. "I talked to Michael and he knew he should do it."

Jordan said he wanted Collins to use the game to evaluate some of Washington's young players.

"Doug knows what I'm capable of doing, but obviously the fans want to see me play at least some minutes, so I opted to do that instead of not playing," said Jordan, talking to Chris Sheridan.

Actually, Jordan's change of mind saved Detroit from a ticket refund snafu. The final 2,000 tickets for the game were sold out on the morning of the game.

"Once I got the response of tickets, I felt compelled to play from that standpoint," said Jordan.

They saw what a 38-year-old is still capable of doing. But the game's best practitioner ever dished out only a fraction of himself. And he knew it.

"I'm pretty sure people expect me to be in top form right now," said Jordan. "But I don't expect myself to be there. Not yet. I've still got some time to get to that point."

Yesterday, Jordan was not your Jordan of 1998. And before 1998. That should be clear to everybody.

"Am I nervous?" said Jordan. "No. I'm very confident of what I'm capable of doing. I've got to go out and play my game and take my progress the way I'm trying to take it."

Jordan has always been—still is—a good player because he is also an intelligent person. He came back precisely for that reason.

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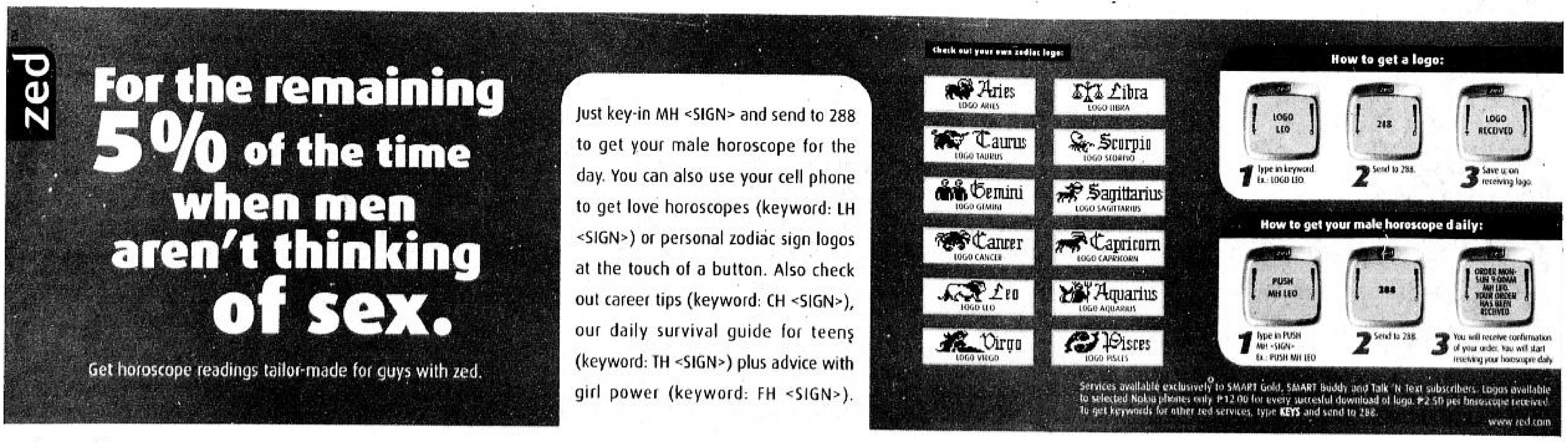

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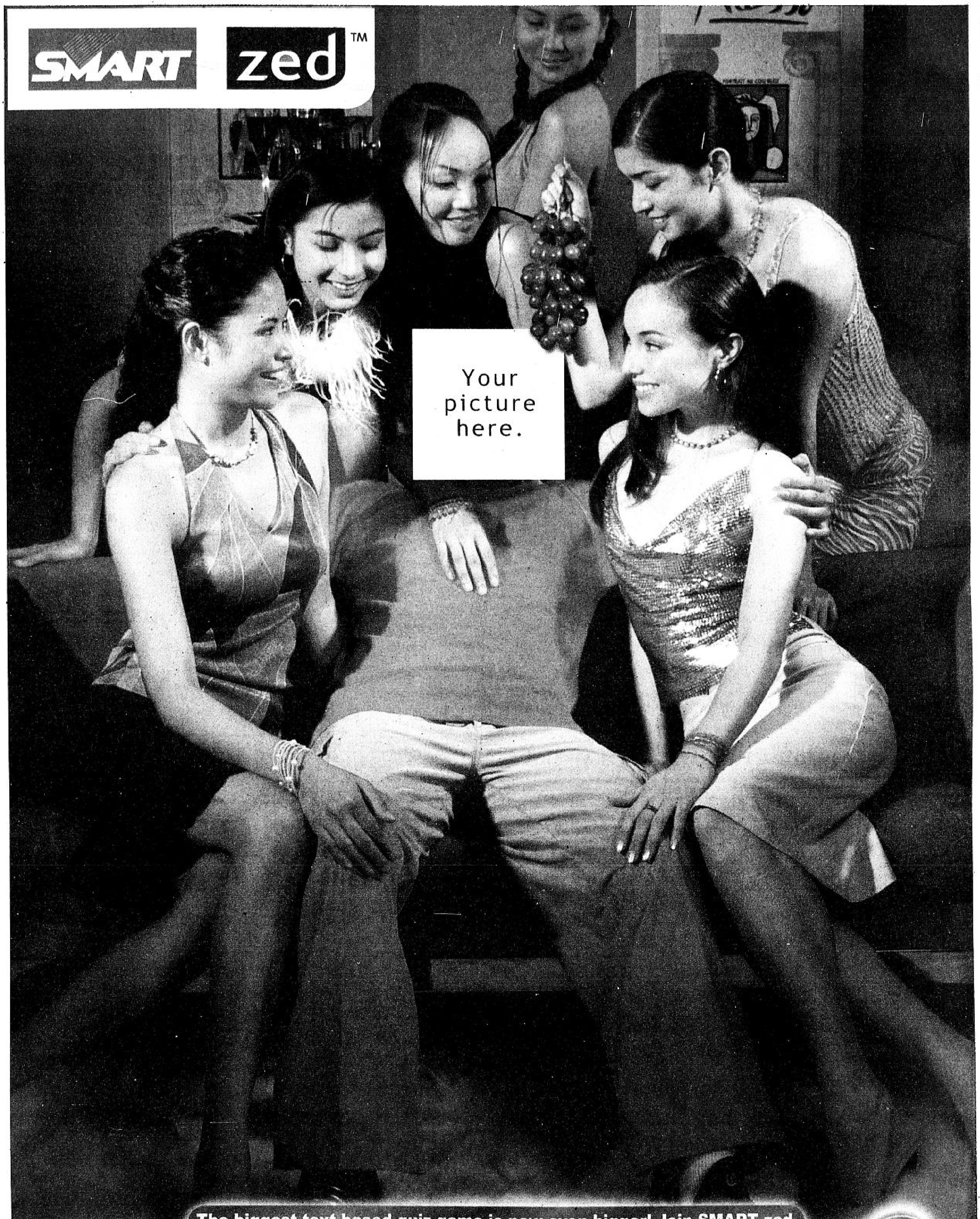

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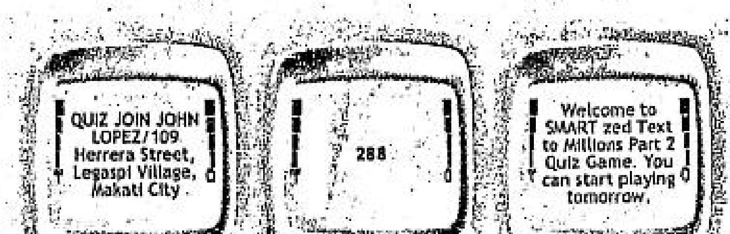

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Valenzuela asks for more cops vs kidnapping A22
Shipping firms, NGOs vs child trafficking A23

METRO
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Bataan has no dumpsite for Metro trash–Gov

THERE is no dumpsite in Bataan available for Metro Manila's trash, provincial Gov. Leonardo B. Roman said yesterday.

"There is absolutely no area in the province ready and available to accommodate the garbage of Metro Manila at this time," Roman said.

Roman made the statement after Secretary Victoria Garchitorena, chief of the Presidential Management Staff, announced on Thursday that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to immediately ship garbage from Pier 18 in Manila to a dumpsite in Bataan as immediate solution to Metro Manila's waste problem.

Roman also denied that an environmental clearance certificate (ECC) has already been issued for the dumpsite.

Also yesterday, MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said that the President had not ordered him to ship waste to Bataan.

But Abalos said the President had directed the MMDA to accept all legitimate offers of sanitary landfill sites to solve Metro Manila's garbage problem, which Ms Macapagal had described in a previous Cabinet meeting as a "national disaster."

Abalos said the absence of a permanent dumpsite is the main reason for the mountains of garbage in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

While Bataan is more than willing to participate in solving the garbage problem in

BATAAN/ A27

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on Thursday visited a proposed dumpsite for Metro Manila garbage in Barangay Lukutan in Rodriguez, Rizal.
EDWIN BACASMAS

Belmonte hands-off in Paref-Northfield school controversy

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

QUEZON City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. yesterday took a hands-off stance in the raging controversy over the allegedly anomalous deal between the city govern-

BELMONTE/ A22

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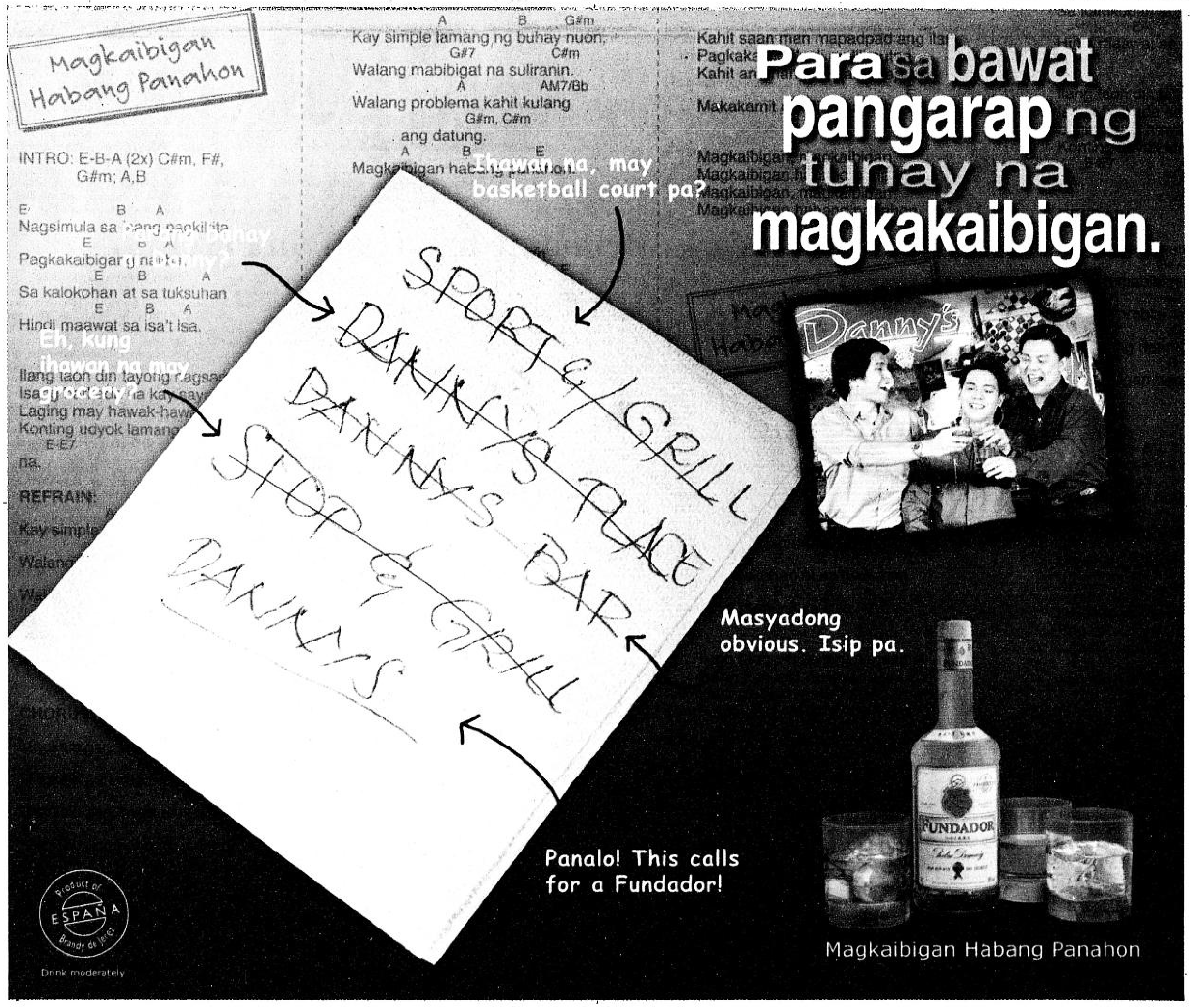

Para sa bawat pangarap ng tunay na magkakaibigan.
Magkaibigan Habang Panahon
INTRO: E-B-A (2x) C#m, F#, G#m; A,B
Kay simple lamang ng buhay nuon;
Walang mabibigat na suliranin.
Walang problema kahit kulang ang datung.
Magkaibigan habang panahon.
Nagsimula sa isang pagkikita
Pagkakaibigang nabuo
Sa kalokohan at sa tuksuhan
Hindi maawat sa isa't isa.
REFRAIN:
Ihawan na, may basketball court pa?
Eh, kung ihawan na may grocery?
~~SPORT & GRILL~~
~~DANNY'S PLACE~~
~~DANNY'S BAR~~
~~STOP & GRILL~~
DANNY'S
Masyadong obvious. Isip pa.
Panalo! This calls for a Fundador!
Danny's
FUNDADOR
Product of ESPAÑA Brandy de Jerez
Drink moderately
Magkaibigan Habang Panahon

Media people should give up gov' t posts

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE CITIZENRY welcomes the coming of US military experts who will train our soldiers in going after the Abu Sayyaf and bring in helicopters and counter-terrorist equipment.

Ordinary folk I've talked with say they find nothing wrong with Americans helping Filipino soldiers defeat the Muslim bandits in Basilan and Sulu.

But the US help will only be in the form of training the troops in guerrilla warfare and in handling new equipment. The Constitution forbids the use of foreign troops on our soil.

* * *

Only the sympathizers of the Muslim bandits and leftists criticize the "intervention" of the US in the fight against the well-armed and well-trained Muslim bandits.

The Abu Sayyaf is high on the list of what the US government considers as terrorist groups getting support from Osama bin Laden, the suspected mastermind in the Sept. 11 attacks on the US.

Most Filipinos are happy over the offer of US help in fighting the Abu Sayyaf. They feel that the continued depredations of the Abu Sayyaf are adversely affecting the economy.

* * *

Let's face it: US military aid will greatly boost the fighting capability of our armed forces.

When the government refused to renew the lease contract on Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) suffered the most. The US cut off its aid to the AFP.

As a result, we have rundown military jeeps, weapons carriers, six-by-six trucks, armored vehicles, helicopters and light planes which were given to us when the Americans were still at Clark and Subic. These vehicles no longer have spare parts; they only run because of Filipino ingenuity.

* * *

Although I don't believe the claim of former Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) media consultant Robert Rivero that First Gentleman Mike Arroyo disbursed P250 million in agency funds to some senatorial candidates in the last election, I certainly agree that media people should not hold government posts.

Conversely, government people should not make use of their positions by being in media.

Scores of media personalities hold sinecure and high-paying positions in the Macapagal government.

They destroy the maxim that in a democracy, media play an adversarial role in its dealings with the government. How can these editors, reporters or columnists criticize the government that pays them high salaries?

* * *

Media personalities who got elected to public office because of their high-profile image should now give up their positions in media.

They cannot serve two masters: the government and media, the two entities work at cross-purposes.

These persons who are media celebrities and government officials at the same time will engender suspicions that they want the best of both worlds because their media and government positions protect each other.

They cannot have the best of both worlds. They should resign one of their positions.

* * *

When something goes wrong unintentionally, yuppies would shrug it off with resignation and say: "St happens."**

Well, st happened and flew smack into my Thursday piece on Lt. Gen. José Calimlim and the men of former PNP chief Panfilo Lacson.**

Due to constraints of space and some unfortunate lapses in communication and cross signals between a paper's writer and its editors, my Thursday piece omitted some matters I wanted to highlight:

- **In the Calimlim and Lacson rivalry, Calimlim won the first round when then President Erap created Task Force Aduana which took away from Lacson's Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force the power to pin down smugglers.**
- **As Task Force Aduana head, Calimlim went about his work with missionary zeal. He raided the territory of Chavit Singson, then one of Erap's closest friends. He was the first general who dared to cross swords with an Ilocos political kingpin. He seized rice and sugar in Ozamiz City that belonged to the Kuratong Baleleng. According to witnesses who sought the help of military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus, the Kuratong Baleleng was already an ally of the Erap-Lacson tandem when the has-been actor was not yet President but was then the presidential anti-crime commissioner.**
- **Lacson's wings were clipped and he did not relish it. He wanted to recover the turf over smugglers which he lost to Calimlim. Something evil must be imputed to Calimlim to make him fall from Erap's graces. This was when an intelligence guy fed me the info about the supposed order of Calimlim to bug former Customs Commissioner Nelson Tan. According to Colonel Corpus, the ISAFP did not have the capability to bug phones during Erap's brief tenure; only Lacson's PAOCTF did.**
- **Lacson won round two when Task Force Aduana was disbanded and anti-smuggling powers were returned to the PAOCTF.**

I had the perception that Calimlim was arrogant simply because he never returned my calls when I wanted to personally refer to him some complaints of abuses of his men at the Presidential Security Group. I now realize that perhaps Calimlim's assistants wanted to isolate him from complaints and so did not bother to relay to him my repeated requests for a return call and appointment.

Nonetheless, I extend my apologies to General Calimlim and his family for having attributed to him an evil act which in all likelihood was carried out by ISAFP men detailed with Lacson's PAOCTF. As I said in my Thursday piece, it looks like I was had.

Valenzuela asks for more cops vs kidnapping

BY ALCUIN PAPA
AND CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

THE VALENZUELA City government yesterday pushed the panic button and asked for more policemen to be deployed in the city, following the spate of kidnappings in the area.

Mayor Emmanuel Carlos and Valenzuela-based businessmen have requested the Philippine National Police for 100 officers to beef up the city's lean police force and to deter highly organized kidnapping syndicates.

Already, PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza ordered the National Capital Region Police Office to pull out 40 warm bodies from the Northern Police District Mobile Force and assign them to Valenzuela.

NCRPO chief Deputy Director General Edgar Galvante yesterday said the reinforcements would be divided into 10 patrol teams and would be given patrol duties.

"We cannot face the (kidnapping) problem in disunity and without resources," Carlos explained when he called for more lawmen to be deployed in his city.

In addition to the lawmen, Carlos also asked for more police cars to patrol the city streets.

Chinese-Filipino businessmen in the city have expressed alarm over the number of abductions in the area. Some of Valenzuela's long-time residents said they now want to leave the city, fearing that the local police could not protect them from kidnappers.

Their fears were fanned further when Connie Wong and her policeman-bodyguard were abducted and killed in Valenzuela on Oct. 2.

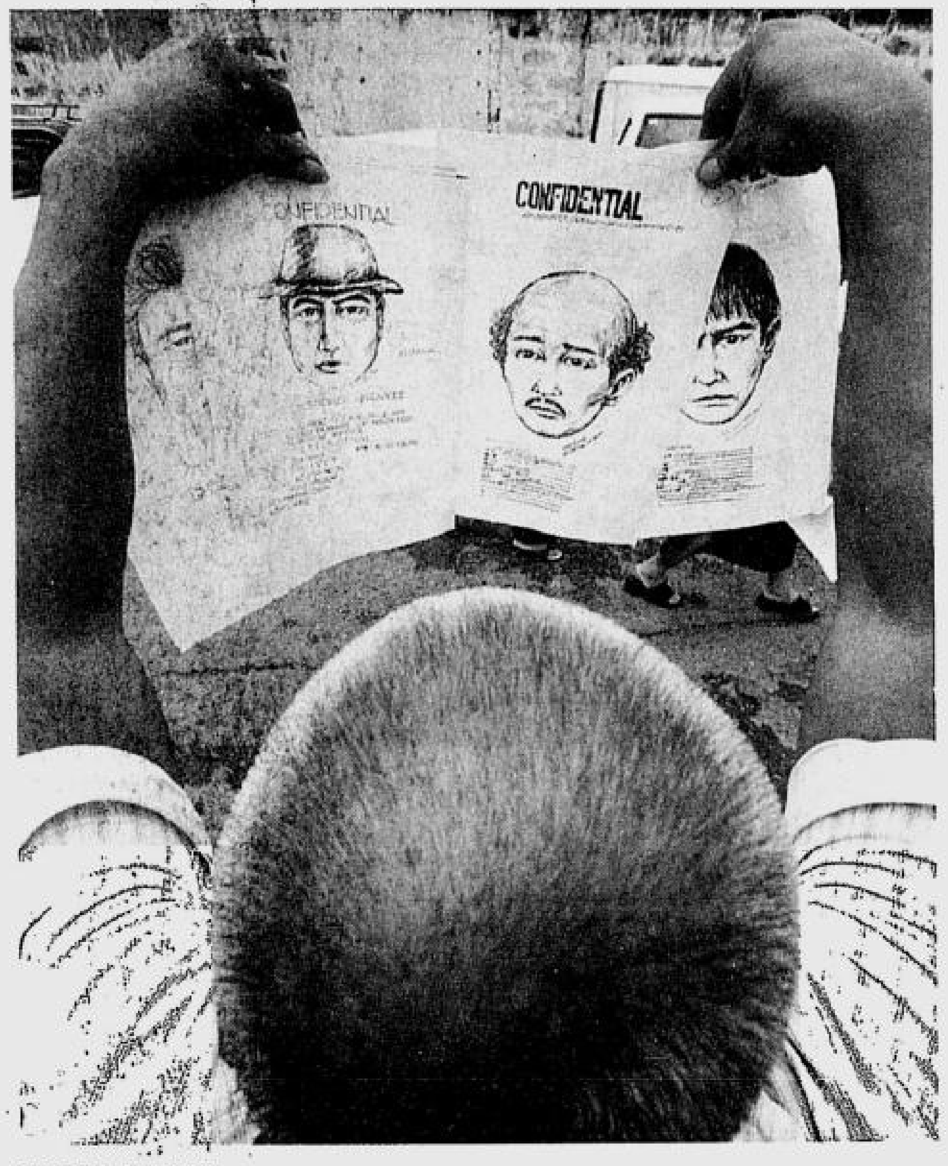
Wong was the sister-in-law of Uratex owner Robert Cheng.

On Oct. 6, three men were abducted by armed men in military gear in Barangay Ugong.

Also, Valenzuela has become the favorite dumping ground of salvage victims.

But members of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Valenzuela, Inc. said they would "stay put" and continue to do business in the city amid the rise in kidnapping incidents.

"Our businesses grow here and, therefore, leaving is not the solution," the businessmen said in a statement. The businessmen expressed their support to the local government's campaign against kidnapping when they met with Carlos and Supt. Leopoldo Ureña, Valenzuela police chief.



HEAD HUNT
A policeman holds up police sketches of the suspects in last week's robbery of at least three shops at SM North in Quezon City where the robbers shot dead a security guard.
DENNIS SABANGAN

Policeman accused of stealing cell phone

BY AGNES DONATO

PO3 ELIAS VILLON has been accused of taking the cell phone of a bus passenger in Mandaluyong City on Thursday.

Villon, 41, said to be a member of the Valenzuela police and a resident of Barangay Magsaysay, San Pedro, Laguna, was arrested by Mandaluyong policemen patrolling the Edsa-Shaw Boulevard crossing on Thursday evening.

SPO2 Jaime Masilang, case investigator, said the lawmen spotted Villon lurking in a dimly lit corner of the street. The suspicious policemen approached Villon and disarmed him when the suspect took out his firearm.

At the Mandaluyong police headquarters, the police reportedly found in Villon's possession a Smart SIM card.

The suspect could not tell whose card it was and where it came from, so one of the policemen decided to trace its owner using the phone numbers stored in it.

Police found out that the card belonged to an Orlyn Deongillo, 26, of Riverside Village, Ortigas Ave. Ext., Pasig City.

Deongillo told police he was on board an air-conditioned bus Thursday morning when the suspect held him up.

Villon reportedly sat beside him and demanded his cellular phone at gunpoint.

The suspect is now detained at the Mandaluyong police station facing charges of robbery, assault, and disobedience to a person of authority.

'Mayor Tiangco cheated us'

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

AROUND 1,000 squatter residents in Navotas yesterday threatened to stage a rally to denounce Mayor Tobias Tiangco for allegedly going back on his promise to stop the demolition of their shanties.

"He cheated us, it was all lip service," said Chito Amomas, vice chairperson of the Kilusang Maralita para sa Kaunlarang Panlipunan.

Amomas claimed Tiangco permitted the demolition of their houses on C-3 Road, even though the mayor had an agreement with the residents.

Tiangco was unavailable for comment.

Amomas said most of the residents had been living in the area since 1968.

According to Amomas, the mayor promised the residents three months ago that there would be no demolition, pending the relocation of thousands of families whose shanties would have to be leveled to make way for a road-widening project in Manila and Navotas.

But Amomas claimed that around 45 houses have been torn down since Friday.

"It came as a very big surprise," Amomas said. "All along, we though we had an agreement with Mayor Tiangco."

The mayor even promised to relocate them to Barangay Tanza, also in Navotas, he added.

The KMKP and other urban poor groups threatened to mobilize some 3,000 members to protest Tiangco's decision to raze their houses.

Among the groups expected to participate are the Navotas People's Community Organization and the Kaisahan ng Navotas Tondo.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, October 13, 2001
27th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: *Jl 4:12-21*
Gospel: *Lk 11:27-28*

As Jesus was speaking, a woman spoke from the crowd and said to him, "Blessed is the one who bore you and nursed you!" Jesus replied, "Surely blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it as well."

Commentary:

In the ancient orient, the mother also got credited for the greatness of her son. Jesus completes the woman's statement. Jesus does not disagree with the woman in her remark but adds that those who hear the word are the ones truly blessed. It is implied that his mother is one of those who have heard and obeyed. Elizabeth once said to Mary, "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." A true Marian devotee is one who listens to the Gospel and does it in life and in work.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Compulsory counterclaim—The basic issue for resolution in this case is whether or not the counterclaim of petitioner is compulsory or permissive in nature. A compulsory counterclaim is one which, being cognizable by the regular courts of justice, arises out of or is connected with the transaction or occurrence constituting the subject matter of the opposing party's claim and does not require for its adjudication the presence of third parties of whom the court cannot acquire jurisdiction. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Gonzaga-Reyes, Third Division, Alday v. FGU Insurance Corporation, G.R. No. 138822, January 23, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Belmonte hands-off in Paref . . .

(From page A21)

ment and the Paref-Northfield School.

Belmonte yesterday told reporters he would rather leave the issue up to the city council to decide what to do with the questioned memorandum of agreement entered into by former Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. and the school administration.

"I would want the council to resolve this matter at its own level," Belmonte said. "There are proposals for amendments."

The mayor's pronouncement of his stand came in the wake of the city council's majority floor leader's admission that the deal indeed was disadvantageous to the city government.

The MOA, which is facing strong opposition from residents of Greenmeadows, would have allowed Paref-Northfield to use rent-free a 3.1-ectare lot owned by the city government over a 50-year period.

After that period, the city government should pay the school 25 percent of its assessed value or Paref-Northfield would be allowed to extend the use of the property rent-free for another 50 years.

The property currently has an assessed value of P1 billion.

Majority floor leader Jesus Suntay admitted that the provision was more favorable to the school than the city government.

But he said school authorities have offered to remove the questionable clause.

"This is one of the things that we will consider when we meet to deliberate on the matter," Suntay said earlier.

Fourth district Councilor Ariel Inton Jr., however, opposed any amendment to the MOA and maintained that it should be revoked.

He said that aside from the anomalous provision, the manner by which the MOA was signed during the previous administration made the deal "void from the beginning."

He urged his colleagues not to agree to any compromise agreement with the school, saying any such agreement would violate the law.

The city council had conducted public hearings on the case starting last week after Inton filed a resolution revoking the MOA.

In last Wednesday's final public hearing, officials of Paref-Northfield said they were willing to scrap the questioned provision but under certain conditions that they have yet to finalize.

Other critics of the deal, led by the Coalition of Homeowners Associations (COHA), walked out of the hearing, accusing some councilors of favoring Paref-Northfield.

They noted that seven members of the city council who were investigating the deal were among those who authored a resolution on March 20 last year approving it on the certification of then Mayor Mathay that the matter was urgent.

Suntay, however, denied this.

"That is not a correct thing to say," he said. "We were only asking questions to clarify many unclear points. The councilors could vote against the MOA, for all they know."

Yet Suntay himself admitted that when he voted for the approval of the MOA, he did not see anything wrong with it.

He said the previous city council approved the MOA "in good faith," but he added that he would not deny other parties their right to question the deal in court.

More problems are expected to arise, though, as both MOA supporters and opponents vowed to file cases in court if the city council failed to come up with a resolution agreeable to both parties.

"We're in a no-win situation here," Suntay said. "If we annul the MOA, Paref-Northfield would sue us. If we uphold it, the COHA would take us to court."

Lawyer Elena Enriquez, counsel for the school, had hinted during Wednesday's hearing that the school would sue the city council if it decided to annul the MOA.

COHA spokesman Manolo Dayrit said the residents would take the matter to court if the city council would uphold the MOA.

The deal, he said, was approved by the previous city council without public consultations.

Taiwan trader shot dead in QC

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

TAIWANESE businessman Ming Chein Shien was shot dead in front of his wife while they were going to the SM mall on North Edsa, Quezon City Thursday night.

Ming, 28, alias Richard Mon, a resident of Road 13, Barangay Pag-Asa, Quezon City, was killed when an unidentified robber shot him in the back, said investigator PO2 Joseph Dino, of the Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit.

Police are now questioning the driver of the tricycle which the couple rode in.

Dino said the tricycle driver could have abetted the gunman in robbing the victim.

The gunman took Ming's clutch bag which contained P10,000 in cash, a Nokia 3310 cellular phone and personal checks, Dino said.

The victim and his wife were on their way to the SM mall on board a passenger tricycle when the driver suddenly stopped the vehicle on Road 1, Barangay Pag-Asa about 7 p.m., Dino said.

The suspect, who was following the couple on board a motorcycle, also stopped, Dino added.

Police said the victim got suspicious and, just as he was stepping out of the tricycle, the robber shot Ming in front of his horrified wife.

The victim slumped on the ground after he was hit on the back, the bullet exiting from his left chest, Dino said.

The robber then grabbed the victim's clutch bag, ran back to his motorcycle and sped away.

The tricycle driver also fled, Dino added.

He said the wife took Ming to the J.P. Sioson General Hospital where he died at 8:05 p.m.

Several hours later, tricycle driver Francisco B. Tekiat, 34, of Barangay Bago Bantay, was invited to the CIU office at Camp Karingal in Sikatuna Village, Quezon City.

His tricycle was also taken to the police camp. But police did not say if he was a suspect in Ming's killing.

Shipping firm, NGOs vs child trafficking

BY JEROME ANING

DELEGATES from organizations battling child trafficking and officials of one of the country's largest domestic shipping companies yesterday met yesterday to assess safety nets in the country's ports that have been set up to stop the recruitment of minors for labor and the sex trade.

Participants in the ongoing Asian Meeting on Trafficking of Children (AMTC), organized by the International Labor Organization, held talks with ground and ship officers and crew of the William, Gothong and Aboitiz Philippines, which operates the SuperFerry vessels.

The Visayas Forum Foundation (VFF), an AMTC participant and a non-government organization helping vulnerable migrant working children, said thousands of children from the outlying islands in the Visayas and Mindanao end up in brothels, bars, factories and even private households in Metro Manila.

VFF president Ma. Cecilia Flores-Oebanda said the children "are being transported by unscrupulous recruiters who employ misinformation, deception, fraud and threat to lure them into prostitution, domestic work and factory jobs, among others."

The parties met on board WG&A's Our Lady of Lipa docked at Pier 4 at the Manila North Harbor.

Among those present were WG&A SuperFerry chief operating officer for passage Raffy Sanvictores and Philippine Ports Authority general manager Alfonso Cusi.

A research conducted by the VFF showed that the victims of child traffickers are mostly females aged 15 to 22 years old. Many are first timers in Manila and often only have one-way ticket when they arrive at the city port.

The children said rural poverty is their main reason for leaving home, according to the research. The foundation learned that the children usually prefer domestic work because "one does not need to show diplomas, birth certificates and fulfill other qualifications to be hired immediately."

VFF said that 13 out of every 20 children they surveyed, or 65.71 percent, journeyed to the metropolis without any work contract. But despite the absence of contracts, more than a third of them said they did not experience any problem in finding work.

Six out of 10 children interviewed complained that their fare was deducted from their salary. About a fifth said they could not adjust to the dialect and the rest disclosed that they experienced fear, jealousy and intimidation.

The AMTC participants, PPA executives and WG&A officials agreed that while prevention remains important, "it is also necessary and practical to intercept potential victims in transit."

Since August 2000, the VFF and the PPA—through the so-called Gender and Development Focal Point Program—have been running a joint halfway house which provides 24-hour services to child victims.

The services include emergency temporary shelter, informal assistance about travel, employment and support networks and quick referral of cases including legal action.

Muslims have 'high hopes'

BY JEROME ANING

MUSLIMS in Manila have "high hopes" for the city government's plan to have a sectoral councilor representing the Muslim community in the city council.

Alim Abdul Majid Goling, general manager of the Manila Islamic Center in Quiapo, yesterday said that a Muslim councilor would safeguard the cultural heritage of the city's Muslim minority and help rid discrimination against Muslims by employers, the police and the ordinary city folk.

Goling said Muslims would be glad to have someone who would give them a voice in the city's policy-making procedures. He said they also want someone to turn to for complaints about abusive, negligent or indifferent policemen and city officials.

"Hopefully, a Muslim councilor will help reduce racial prejudice against the Muslims and help other Manila residents understand our way of life," he told the Inquirer.

Goling, who has been living in Quiapo for the past 20 years, said many residents of the Islamic Center have tried running for a post in the Council but failed simply because they are outvoted by the Christian and Tagalog majority.

In a meeting last Wednesday with leaders of the city's Muslim communities in Quiapo, San Andres Bukid, Sampaloc, Malate and Baseco Compound in Tondo, Mayor Lito Atienza bared a plan to add sectoral representatives in the Council from Muslim and other ethnic minority groups living in the capital.

The mayor's office did not say if the City Charter would have to be amended first by Congress to allow the election of the additional sectoral representatives.

But Atienza said such representation is permitted by the Local Government Code of 1991.

He said he would call an assembly of Muslim leaders at City Hall, who would choose among themselves, through secret ballot, who would sit as sectoral representative.

The Council is composed of 38 members—six councilors popularly elected from each of the city's six districts and two sectoral councilors representing the Sangguniang Kabataan Federation and the Liga ng mga Barangay.

There are about 100,000 Muslims in Manila, roughly about 20 percent of the city's two million population.

RP's own 6th billionth baby, others in her generation 'to live in uncertainty'

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

THE PHILIPPINES' own version of the 6th billionth baby celebrated her second birthday yesterday. But the real challenge for Lorrize Mae is making it to her fifth birthday, according to the Commission on Population.

Like the Filipino children of her generation, Lorrize Mae "will continue to live in uncertainty for as long as there are problems compounded by a high population growth and poverty," said PopCom executive director Tomas Osias.

"Children do not yet have the power to make choices and to change their circumstances," Osias said. "They live in an environment that adults have made for them."

Today's generation of children live at a time when the country is struggling to overcome poverty, which affects 40 percent of the country's 76.5 million people, Osias said.

Lorrize Mae's second birthday meant she had survived one of the most critical obstacles to the life of children in the country—an infant mortality rate that has seen 36 out of 1,000 infants die before they reach their first birthday.

Osias said the probability of a Filipino child dying between birth and the fifth year is 48 per 1,000 live births.

Infant and child mortality rates reflect a country's human development. If the death rate is reduced, then the children are growing up in an improved environment where health and education—two of their most critical needs—are adequately provided, Osias said.

The country's situation may be as fragile as that of a baby. But it is still up to the parents, institutions and the government to prevent risks that may harm children and to ensure the development of their fullest potential, Osias said.

"It is up to us to make the world better so that the children won't regret having been born," Osias said.

Lorrize Mae was born on Oct. 12, 1999 to hospital utility worker Rodelio Guevarra and his wife Lorelei at the Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital in Sta. Cruz.

The third child in the family, Lorrize Mae has not experience any life-threatening illness despite being born to poverty, Osias said.

Lorrize Mae is the Philippines' symbolic six billionth baby, representing children born in her generation.

In Saravejo, a baby boy was born at two minutes past midnight of Oct. 12, 1999 to become the six billionth member of the human race.

Metrobank supports GMA scholarship program

TWENTY college scholarship grants from the Metrobank Foundation would be given to financially needy but deserving Filipino students.

The foundation has pledged to undertake the scholarship grants of the students in any three, four or five year course from either the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) or the Technological University of the Philippines (TUP) for the school year 2001–2002.

The scholarship program will cover 100 percent subsidy for tuition fees, which shall be remitted directly to PUP and TUP, and an allowance of P1,000 every month for 10 months per school year, to be released directly to the scholar through an ATM account with the Metrobank branch nearest these educational institutions.

The Metrobank Foundation has also pledged to grant outstanding graduates of the program with Latin honors and who belong to their respective university's top 10 graduates with additional cash incentives.

A cum laude would receive P30,000; magna cum laude, P40,000; and summa cum laude, P50,000.

To encourage the beneficiaries of the program to aspire for outstanding academic performance, Metrobank Foundation graduates of the program from both PUP and TUP would also be given certificates of academic distinction upon their graduation beginning school year 2004-2005.

PUP and TUP would be responsible for screening the applicants for the program and for endorsing the list of the outstanding graduates to be granted the additional cash incentives.

After the list has been properly validated, the foundation shall issue the corresponding checks covering the tuition fees of the scholars. These scholars shall open ATM savings accounts with the Metrobank branch nearest the university and draw from the accounts their monthly allowances.

The qualified outstanding graduates entitled to receive additional cash incentives shall be required to attend the awarding ceremony, which will be organized by PUP and TUP and attended by university officials, representatives of concerned government agencies and senior officers of the foundation.

The scholarship grants are in addition to the 5,000 scholars under the government's PGMA scholarship program for the urban poor in Metro Manila.

Quiz Bee championship on Oct. 20

ARE girls better than boys in academics?

Find out the answer by watching part one of the 22nd National Super Quiz Bee (NSQB) National Capital Region (NCR) division championship on IBC 13 on Oct. 20, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., focusing on mathematics and Philippine history and culture in the elementary level of the children's Quiz Bee of the Division of Quezon City and the Division of Makati City.

The championship will be held in the Atrium of Ever Gotesco Commonwealth.

The multi-awarded National Super Quiz Bee, the longest running and the most prestigious academic competition in the country, is a special project of the Quiz Bee Foundation with the full support of the Office of the President, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Department of Interior and Local Goverment (DILG).

Part II will be telecast on Oct. 27, Saturday, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., also on IBC 13, featuring science and technology in the high school level of the Junior Quiz Bee, and general information and international affairs in the college level, the Senior Quiz Bee.

Spanky Enriquez is the quiz master of both events.

The major sponsors are STI, Yakult, Uni-writing instrument with major donors Philippine Daily Inquirer, Junior Inquirer, Time-Life Books, JRS Express and Ahead Tutorial and Review Center.

Hospice marks tenth year

MANILA Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin yesterday offered Mass in Villa San Miguel to mark the 10th year of the establishment of the Philippine Cancer Society (PCS) Hospice Home Care of Poor, Dying Cancer Cases.

Dr. Roberto M. Paterno, PCS chair, and Dr. Mita Pardo de Tavera, PCS president, who inspired the setting up of the new service 10 years ago for the benefit of indigent, terminally ill cancer patients, attended the Mass.

PCS board members, patients, their families and friends, representatives of various hospices and support groups in Metro Manila, and volunteers from several communities and parishes were also in attendance.

The program, as envisioned by Dr. Tavera, has a team visiting the patient at home. It offers advice on pain and symptom control, emotional and psychosocial counseling and spiritual support.

Family members also avail themselves of caregivers and home nursing training and support group sessions.

Since the Hospice Home Care Program of Poor, Dying Cancer Cases started, more than 1,300 patients and their families have been assisted.

With the support of their respective parish priests and volunteers, the Sto. Niño Parish in Tondo and St. Joseph Parish in Las Piñas have also been activated to bring the service in their areas.

Give your children the world; get them to read

BY BIBETH ORTEZA

TODAY'S children, mostly the boys, spend hours playing video games. Try to make them read, and you get a horrified shriek: "But, Mama! Reading is sissy stuff!"

That from our 11-year-old boy, who'd point out he liked basketball, movies, music, and that he played a little piano, but "do I have to read? Like real books? I already know how to!"

We were easy on him for a while, until immediately after the mayhem of Sept. 11. With talk of World War III in the air, it bothered us greatly to pick him up from the town center, fresh from playing Counter Strike, an immensely popular interactive computer game, and hear him and his classmates talk about the number of people they had "killed."

Remembering also that among the personal stuff culled from the rooms of the two teeners responsible for the Columbine High School shootout in the US early in 1999 were violent video games, we knew we had to move and somehow make a reader out of our son.

Books and movies

Getting our daughter hooked into reading earlier on was not hard. She had, on her own, developed the habit after tiring of *bahay-bahayan* and dressing up Barbie dolls. At nine, she had gone through Louisa May Alcott's "The Little Women," Laura Ingalls' "Little House on the Prairie" series, Francine Pascal's "Sweet Valley Kids," the Babysitters' Club series, the Judy Blumes, the Nancy Drews, not to mention Harry Potter.

Between 10 and 12, she proved to be of the dot com generation, reading stuff somewhat linked with each other. After watching the animation feature "Anastasia," she saw the Ingrid Bergman version, "Nicholas and Alexandra," then went straight into reading the putative Anastasia's Anna Anderson bio, and other books on the Russian Revolution.

The death of John F. Kennedy Jr. got her into all the major Kennedy biographies; the film Elizabeth I, into Alison Weir and her works ("Henry VIII: The King and His Court," "The Six Wives of Henry VIII," "The Princes in the Tower"); "Shakespeare in Love," into "Romeo and Juliet."

Not Filipino

Needless to say, Mama and Papa were impressed. But patting ourselves in the back for our daughter's reading proved to be our own undoing: We completely neglected our son's.

Idiots that we were, and unabashedly taking credit for our daughter's reading, we missed out on something of great importance: She was hardly reading Filipino authors, and no other Asians either. An unforgivable omission from parents who speak proudly of Filipino films.

It took a whole lot of scowling and foot-stomping before our son realized we were serious. He threatened to report us to the "Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children," and labeled what we were doing "child-abuse." He rejected The Hardy Boys after going through one ("That's corny *na*, they're solving simply mysteries *lang*.").

He was cold to Harry Potter ("Everyone's read him, he's not cool anymore.").

We set a major rule: He had to earn what he wanted by reading a book. You want a cell card for your (prepaid) cell phone? Read this, first. You want to watch a movie? Two movies equals one book. You want a new pair of rubber shoes? Oho, rubber shoes are expensive, that will mean at least five books.

You want to play Counter-Strike? That means reading at least 30 pages of a book-of-the-week, just before bedtime, Mondays to Fridays, and less TV.

Mel's help

The same rule was more or less applied to his sister. A cell card, a movie, use of the Internet, all these she'd get only in exchange for a Filipino short story whether in English or Filipino. She balked, but our friend director Mel Chionglo came to the rescue. Upon hearing her talk about a problem in school, Mel asked her to read Gilda Cordero-Fernando's "Eye of the Needle," the story of grade-schooler dealing with a bully in class.

"You will identify with the heroine," Mel told her. "You will find out other girls your age are going through the same thing." She read the short story, and was glad she did. She is finishing the GCF anthology, and is asking permission to read Estrella Alfon.

Taking the çue from Mel, we did our homework and searched on the Internet for reading material for our boy whose sense of humor falls on being humorless. We chanced upon Lemony Snicket's "A Series of Unfortunate Events" and happily found seven of the so far series of eight available in Powerbooks and Page One.

Parents, prepare

The amazon.com review already said, "While it's true that the events that unfold in Snicket's novels are bleak, and things never turn out as you'd hope, these delightful, funny, linguistically playful books are reminiscent of Roald Dahl, Charles Dickens, and Edward Gorey," but we didn't stop there. We presumed our son was going to discuss the books with us, so we read at least the first three books ourselves, and discuss them with us he did.

Parents must read what their children read and be prepared to answer all questions that arise from the material. They must also set the example, as only readers can beget readers.

The boy read "A Bad Beginning," the first book, in a day. It was rewarding to hear him chuckle as he went from page to page. It was soothing to have nothing but silence from the room where there used to be only sounds of ball thumping on wooden floor, or the voice of Jackie Chan and other cartoon characters from a video.

We are not claiming miracles. Our son's only into the fourth book of the series now, averaging a book a week since we set the rules. But we're not complaining. While he's asked for several other books, we are aware he still has to develop the habit on his own.

His vocabulary's improving, though. The other night, I asked him what he was doing. "Nothing," he said. "Just brooding."

Bribery?

"Still, you're bribing them," a well-meaning friend chided us. "If they're really readers, they should be just reading, without expecting things in return."

But what, if they're not readers? What do we do to get them to read? Punish them? Beat them up? "I'll slap you if you don't finish this!" "*Paluluhurin kita sa asin 'pag di ka nagbasa*!"

Moreover, we say: "You can only play with your friends after you clean your room." "I'll buy you that if your grades are good." Or worse, "I didn't mean to ignore you for the past month, but I'll take you on a vacation as soon as I get paid for this." Do we count these as bribery, too?

We like it that they read their Bibles, but in the near future, we want them to be proud not only of having read Dickens, Shakespeare, Dostöevsky, but exhibit the same pride, if not much more, for having read Alfon, Cordero-Fernando, Manuel Arguilla, NVM Gonzales, Nick Joaquin, Franz Arcellana, Edilberto Tiempo, Charlson Ong, Amado Hernandez, Consorcio Borje, Genoveva Edroza-Matute, Pete Lacaba, and all other great Filipino fiction-writers and poets.

We dream of having them reading newspapers, all if possible and not just one, and by themselves debate and argue over op-ed columns and the future of the nation.

If we bring them to do all, we would have given them the world.

Housing for poor, parking for rich

By Jerome Aning

LOW-COST housing for the poor and parking facility for the rich.

This is how Manila Mayor Lito Atienza envisions to convert idle land in the city.

Yesterday, Atienza ordered an inventory of all public lands in the city and announced in his weekly news conference at city hall that he has also formed a task force to conduct the inventory.

Enerico Sampang, one of Atienza's urban planning consultants, will head the task force.

The move is in compliance with President Macapagal-Arroyo's directive to local government units to implement public housing projects in accordance with Republic Act No. 7279 or the Urban Development and Housing Act, Atienza said.

The team would form a consolidated list of all idle lands owned by the national and city governments and identify those that could be the site for medium-rise housing projects, Atienza said.

He said idle public land suitable for low-cost housing could be developed jointly by city hall and national government agencies such as the National Housing Authority and the Housing and Urban Development Coordination Council.

In an earlier interview, Atienza also said he would call on the city council to pass an ordinance requiring the owners of idle private land to make their property useful to Manila residents.

He encouraged private owners to open vacant lots to vehicle parking or construct parking buildings. He said city hall is willing to give tax incentives in return for the voluntary conversion of the land.

Atienza warned that city hall would not hesitate to acquire, through expropriation proceedings, properties whose owners refuse to make productive.

He said public land in the city that remained idle and unproductive since the end of the Second World War could be put to good use. Many of these vacant lots are in "prime areas" such as the once-famous "downtown Manila" in the Quiapo and Sta. Cruz districts.

Atienza said a piece of lot owned by the Bureau of Public Lands along Juan Luna and Dasmariñas Streets in Binondo and another owned by the Department of Labor and Employment along P. Paterno Street in Quiapo are being eyed for development, as well as a piece of public land inside Intramuros, which have been taken over by informal settlers.

But Atienza clarified that Intramuros would be treated as a special case since there are cultural and historical sites in the area.

"We will consult and work closely with the National Historical Institute, the Intramuros Administration and conservation groups on this," Atienza said.

The mayor said he expects no problem with the implementation of housing projects in land owned by the national government since this would only take executive action by the President.

For lots owned by the city government, only the mayor's action and corresponding legislation from the council are needed, Atienza said.

He said the beneficiaries of the housing program would be employees and workers in the private and public sectors, particularly those covered by various programs such as the Pag-ibig or the Home Development Mutual Fund, which would provide funds for the projects.

Makati sets hearing on tax hike

THE MAKATI City council is inviting all sectors in Makati to a public hearing on three proposed ordinances increasing real property taxes next year.

The council said the city government is planning to implement a 20 to 25 percent increase in real property tax rates in order to boost city revenues.

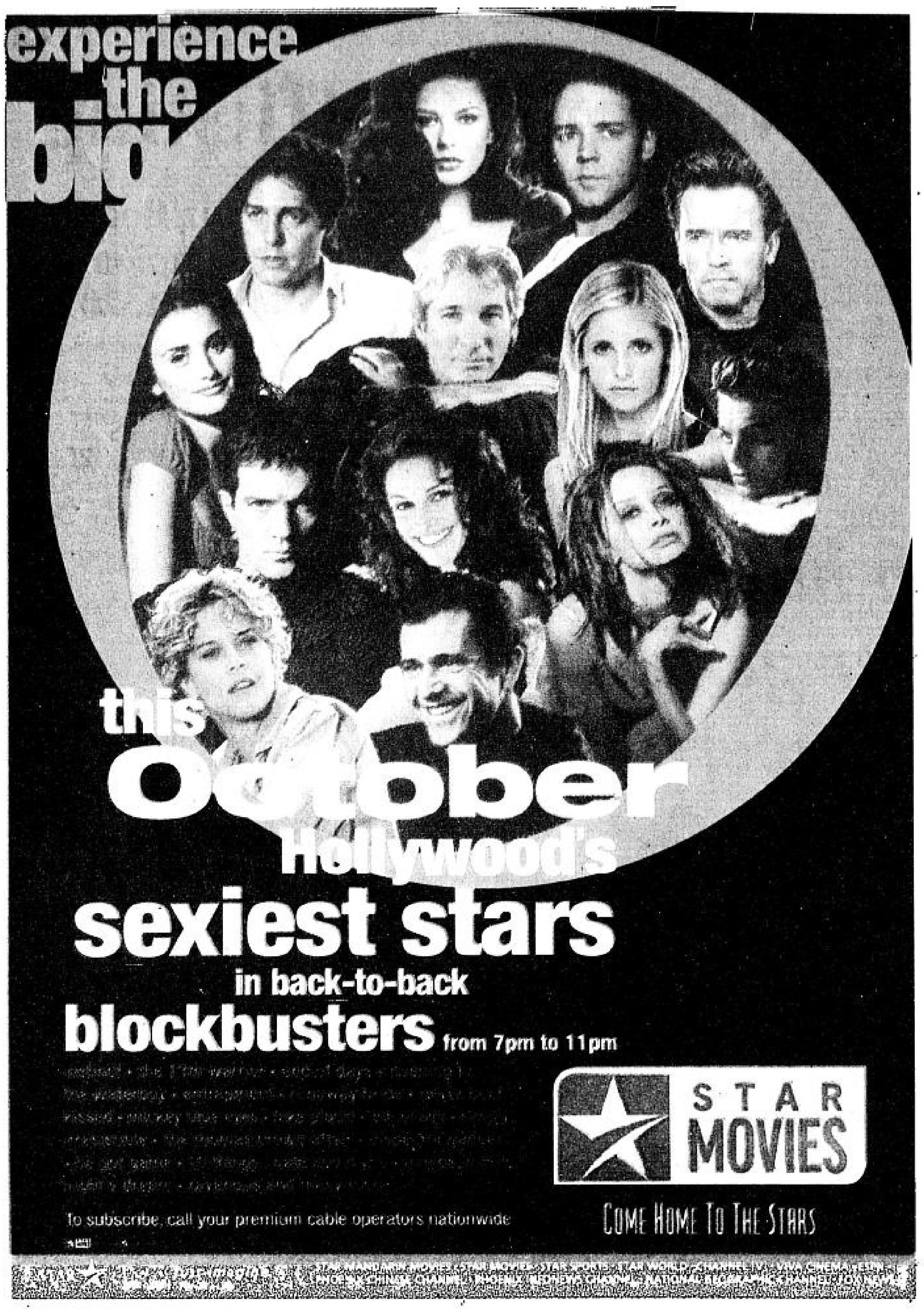
Ordinance No. 2001-046, Ordinance No. 2001-047 and Ordinance No. 2001-048 seek to amend existing ordinances regarding the general revision of the fair market values of real properties, assessment levels for lands and the ad valorem tax rate.

Under the law, the Makati City government could have implemented a raise in realty tax rates by year 2000 but it decided to defer the move because of the country's poor economic situation.

Section 219, RA 7160 of the Local Government Code of 1991 gives authority for the provincial, city or municipal assessor to undertake a general revision of real property assessments every three years since 1994. The last time Makati made such a revision was in 1997.

The first public hearing, scheduled for all barangay captains, presidents of homeowners' associations and villages, and residents will be held on Monday, Oct. 15, 9 a.m., at the new Makati session hall.

The next hearings will be conducted on Tuesday, 2 p.m., for other barangay officials and residents, and on Friday, 2 p.m., for all members of the business sector, at the same venue.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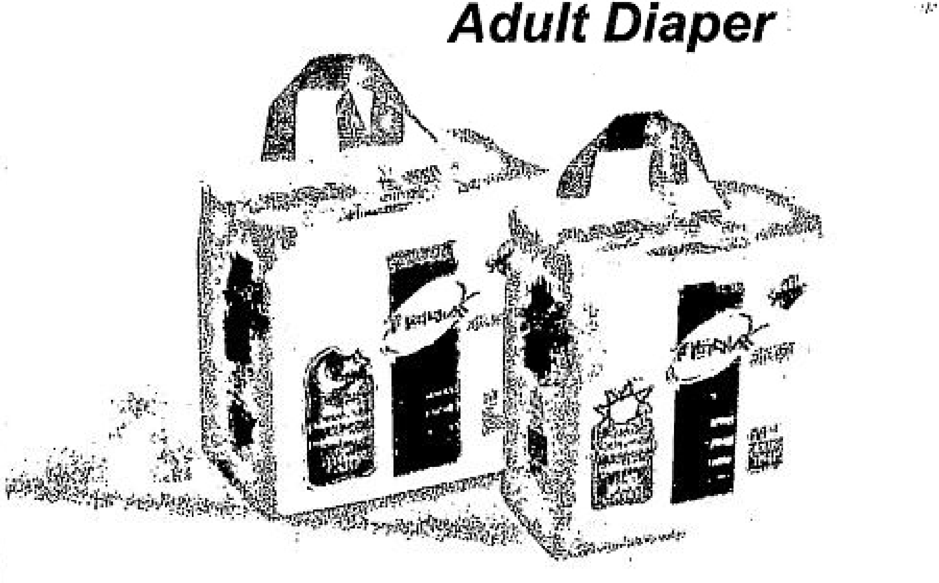

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Customs exceeds target by ₱1.1B

BY GERALD G. LACURTA

THE BUREAU of Customs reported that it has already exceeded its revenue target for January to October by P1.1 billion, a bright spot in an otherwise gloomy picture of the economy due to tensions in the Middle East and the US.

Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva said the BOC has collected a total of P78.5 billion as of Oct. 10, against its target of P77.3 billion for January to October, based on a report of the Bureau of Treasury.

The collections were a reversal of the BOC performance in the first half of the year, when the BOC collected P45.899 billion and suffered a shortfall of P1.88 billion.

During that same period, the Bureau of Internal Revenue reported a revenue shortfall of P14.868 billion.

Villanueva said the total collection of P78.5 billion was 11 percent higher as compared to last year's figures for the same period. The amount also almost covered the government's budget deficit of P79.559 billion in the first half of the year.

Villanueva said that despite the expected downturn in the world economy due to tensions sparked by the terrorist attacks on the US, he was confident that the BOC would meet its collection goal of P105 billion at the end of the year.

"We will see how it goes, but we are determined to meet and even exceed our target," Villanueva said.

He said the BOC's drive to exceed its collection targets was in line with the Department of Finance's bid to keep the budget deficit to its full-year projection of P145 billion.

Villanueva said that given the gloomy scenarios being painted by economists, the BOC was now trying hard to source revenue from "non-traditional sources" aside from the regular duties and taxes levied on imports.

Among these possible sources are the disposal of all seizure and collection cases, the auction of all items forfeited in favor of the government, the audit of all customs bonded warehouses to collect unliquidated guarantee bonds, and the application of administrative remedies to collect on all accounts receivables.

Villanueva said the BOC shall soon declare as abandoned all cargoes overstaying in the ports, bonded warehouses, container yards and container freight stations so these could be auctioned to generate revenue for the government.

Recently, the BOC ordered two firms to pay a total of P430,000 in unpaid taxes and duties arising from misdeclaration of tariff rates on their shipments of cast iron pipes, and forfeited P923,056 worth of imported iron pipes from China.

Felipe Bartolome, district collector of the Port of Manila, ordered R.D. Tuazon Construction of Quezon City to pay P379,102 in unpaid duties and taxes including surcharges after it was found during inspection that the shipment of 51 packages of ductile pipes was misclassified and was taxed only three percent instead of seven percent.

Another firm, Westpoint Industrial Sales Inc., was asked to pay P49,194 representing additional duties arising from the misclassification of its importation of malleable cast iron pipe last April which was charged only three percent tax instead of 10 percent.

Ordered seized upon the order of Emelito Villaruz, district customs collector at the Manila International Container Port, were P923,056 worth of pipes and fittings contained in two 20-foot containers consigned to ACI Xingxing Philippines of Makati City. Records showed the firm initially expressed interest in claiming the shipment but its representatives failed to appear in subsequent hearings.

Garments firm robbed

A GARMENTS company yesterday lost around P300,000 in payroll money to two armed men who robbed its messenger in Navotas, police said.

Messenger Gerardo Malaga, 40, of Western Garments Inc., had just withdrawn the money from a nearby bank when the armed men blocked his motorcycle and took the cash contained which was in a plastic bag around 10:45 a.m., police said.

Malaga screamed for help and caught the attention of several traffic enforcers on Lapu-Lapu Avenue in Dagat-Dagatan, Navotas. SPO2 Elinoy Hidalgo and other policemen caught up with suspects Sammy Espina, 28, and Pepe Caparosa, 23, a flew blocks from the robbery scene. *C. Esguerra*

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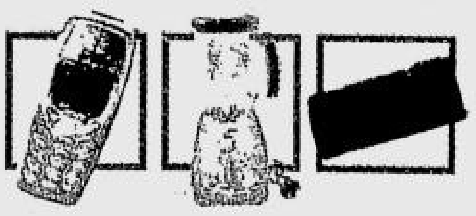

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    - receipt of any Soft & Dri, Gillette Series, Right Guard or Gillette Foamy Product (dated Sept 15 - Dec 15, 2001)
    - receipt of any Braun Appliance purchased (dated Sept 15 - Dec 15, 2001)
    - 1 empty blister card of Gillette razor or refills
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5. Coverage of the promotion is nationwide.
6. Last day of receipt of entries is on December 15, 2001.
7. A DTI representative will be present to supervise the draw at 10:00 am to 12 nn on December 28, 2001. Venue will be at Gillette (Phils.), Inc., main office at Villongco Road, Bo. San Dionisio, Sucat, Parañaque, Metro Manila.
8. A winner can only win once. If name is drawn more than once, winner gets the prize of higher value.
9. Winner will be announced via a nationally circulated newspaper.
10. All winners will be notified by registered mail.
11. For METRO MANILA winners, prizes may be claimed at Gillette (Phils.), Inc., main office at Villongco Road, Bo. San Dionisio, Sucat, Parañaque, Metro Manila. PROVINCIAL WINNERS can claim their prize in the following redemption address:
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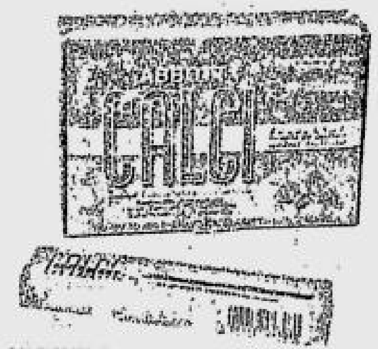

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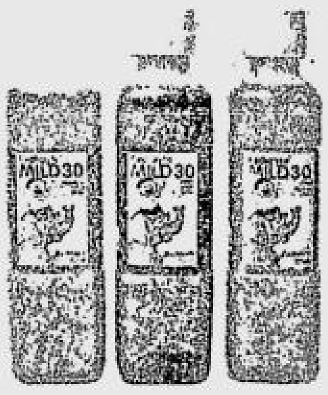

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2	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	OSMOSIS JONES in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	HEART BREAKERS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	THE HOLE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

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MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (SDS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
2 (SDDS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
3 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
4 GOLD (DTS)	OSMOSIS JONES
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE HOLE
6 GOLD (SDDS)	13 DAYS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	13 DAYS
8	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
9	MARITAL RAPE
10	LA VIDA ROSA

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	ORIGINAL SIN
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	HULI SA AKTO
3	MARITAL RAPE

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	MARITAL RAPE
3	HULI SA AKTO
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	13DAYS
5	SISID

METROPOLIS star
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	SISID
2	HULI SA AKTO
3	MARITAL RAPE
4	SANGGANOT SANGGAGO
5	OSMOSIS JONES
6	13 DAYS
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	13 DAYS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	ENEMY AT THE GATES

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	RESERVE
2	PLAYING WITH FIRE
3	LAST ERUPTION

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	SEX MEDUSA
A	HULI SA AKTO

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
3	PUKYUTAN
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	SISID
3	LAST ERUPTION
4	THE HOLE
5	HULI SA AKTO
6	MARITAL RAPE
7 (DTS)	OSMOSIS JONES
8 (SDDS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
9 (DOLBY)	13 DAYS

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3	MARITAL RAPE
4 (SDDS)	LAST ERUPTION
5	HULI SA AKTO
6 (DOLBY)	SISID
7 (DTS)	OSMOSIS JONES
8	LA VIDA ROSA
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	OSMOSIS JONES
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3	MARITAL RAPE
4	HULI SA AKTO
5 (SDDS)	13 DAYS
6	LAST ERUPTION
7 (DOLBY)	THE HOLE
8	SISID

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	SISID
3 (DTS)	HULI SA AKTO
4	MARITAL RAPE
5 (SDDS)	OSMOSIS JONES

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	HULI SA AKTO

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	HULI SA AKTO
Lords	MARITAL RAPE
Jennet	

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	THE HOLE
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGADO
3	OSMOSIS JONES

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	13 DAYS
3	HULI SA AKTO
4	MARITAL RAPE
5	OSMOSIS JONES

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	MARITAL RAPE
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	HULI SA AKTO

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3	MARITAL RAPE

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	HULI SA AKTO
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	MARITAL RAPE
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (DTS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	ST. FRANCISVILLE
2 (DTS)	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (DOLBY)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4	MARITAL RAPE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 (DOLBY)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
3 (DTS)	ST. FRANCISVILLE
4	MARITAL RAPE

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	FAST & FURIOUS
2	SISID
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	13 DAYS
2	HUNGER FOR LOVE
3	MARITAL RAPE
4 (DTS)	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	ST. FRANCISVILLE
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (DTS)	MARITAL RAPE
4	SISID
5	REGING FORCE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	ST. FRANCISVILLE
3	MARITAL RAPE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
3	MARITAL RAPE

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	SCARY MOVIE
3	SEX MEDUSA

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	MARITAL RAPE
3	ST. FRANCISVILLE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 (DTS)	MARITAL RAPE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	ENEMY AT THE GATES
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3	SISID

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
2	ST. FRANCISVILLE
3	HEART BREAKER
4	FAST & FURIOUS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3	RESERVE
4 (DTS ES)	ST. FRANCISVILLE

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2	13 DAYS
3	THE HOLE
4	OSMOSIS JONES
5	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
6	HARD DAY'S NIGHT
7	FAST & FURIOUS
8	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
9	MARITAL RAPE
10	LAST ERUPTION

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	13 DAYS
2	THE HOLE
3	LAST ERUPTION
4	OSMOSIS JONES
5	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
6	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
7	HARD DAY'S NIGHT

NOVALICHES 935-3229 TO 31

1	RESERVE
2	OSMOSIS JONES
3	LAST ERUPTION
4	OSMOSIS JONES
5	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
6	RESERVE
7	13 DAYS
8	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

IMUS (046) 471-8188

1	13 DAYS
2	OSMOSIS JONES
3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
5	MARITAL RAPE
6	SISID

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	ST. FRANCISVILLE
4	FINDING FORRESTER
5	LA VIDA ROSA
6	RUSH HOUR 2

SOON TO OPEN

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MARITAL RAPE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	13 DAYS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	OSMOSIS JONES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	LAST ERUPTION
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	THE HOLE
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	HULI SA AKTO
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	RED DIARIES / ONE NIGHT AT MC COOLS
ODEON	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
ODEON-2	SISID
ROBEN	MARITAL RAPE
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	JURASIC PARK 3 / STICK MAN

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MARITAL RAPE
REMAR	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
REMAR-2	SISID

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
B	SISID
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CINE EUROPA 4
CINEMA-2	OSMOSIS JONES

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MR. NICE GUY
CINEMA-2	SISID
CINEMA-3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ST. FRANCISVILLE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
CINEMA-6	MARITAL RAPE
CINEMA-7	LA VIDA ROSA
CINEMA-8	HULI SA AKTO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	OSMOSIS JONES
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	13 DAYS
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-12	THE HOLE
CINEMA-14	LAST ERUPTION
CINEMA-15	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	HEARTBREAKERS
CINEMA-2	OSMOSIS JONES
CINEMA-3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-4	THE HOLE
CINEMA-5	A HARD DAY'S NIGHT
CINEMA-6	13 DAYS

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	IKAW LAMANG
CINEMA-2	LAGING SARIWA ANG SUGAT
CINEMA-4	KALARO

Drunken 'tanod' shoots vendor

By Philip C. Tubeza

A DRUNKEN barangay watchman shot dead Aida P. Bandasan, 36, as she was tending to her wares at the Manggahan Market in Quezon City around noon Thursday.

Ernesto P. Bihag, 38, of Sierra Madre Street, Barangay Payatas B, Quezon City, was arrested after he killed Bandasan, of Mayo Street, Barangay Commonwealth, Quezon City, the Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit reported yesterday.

Bandasan, a meat vendor, took a bullet in the jaw and died at the East Avenue Medical Center, police said.

Bandasan was in her stall tending to her goods when a drunken Bihag appeared at 12:10 p.m. on Thursday, police said.

The suspect surprised Bandasan and other vendors when he suddenly took out his .38-caliber pistol and brandished it about.

Bihag then pointed his gun at the shocked Bandasan and pulled the trigger, police said.

When the victim collapsed on the dirty market floor, Bihag tried to escape and ran toward Litex Road. But he did not get far.

PO2s Eleuterio Bulacan and Estelito Mortega ran after the suspect and caught up with him. The police seized Bihag's pistol which still had six live rounds.

Bandasan was first taken to the Fairview General Hospital and was later transferred to East Avenue Medical where she died at 2:55 p.m.

Her body was later taken to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for autopsy.

Bihag is now behind bars at the CIU office in Camp Karingal, Sikatuna Village.

Fisherman killed by lightning

By Christian Esguerra

A FISHERMAN was hit by lightning and killed during a heavy downpour in Navotas on Tuesday.

Alberto Sabino, 41, of Gov. Pascual Street, Sipac, Navotas, was burned beyond recognition along the banks of the Malabon-Navotas River about 3 p.m., investigation showed.

Police said the victim and his three companions decided to stop fishing because of the violent wind and rushing waves.

When they were docking their boat, a lightning bolt struck Sabino, burning him severely, police added.

The victim died before he could be taken to the Tondo Medical Center.

Bataan has no dumpsite for Metro trash-Gov

(From page A21)

Metro Manila, Roman said the province is not yet ready to host an environmental-friendly dumpsite.

Roman said that as early as two years ago, he created a body to conduct a study on the establishment of an ecological waste management facility for the province.

"This ecological waste management facility will also be made available for the garbage of neighboring provinces and Metro Manila if and when it is ready," Roman said.

The use of a dumpsite in Rodriguez (formerly Montalban), Rizal also met opposition from the residents.

"If the people of Semirara in Panay, the provinces of Pampanga and Cavite did not accept the garbage of Metro Manila, why should we allow it in Montalban, a watershed for Metro Manila?" said Mrs. Edelisa Lustre, spokesperson of Protect -Montalban, an alliance of church people, professionals, workers and farmers.

No amount of development plans can outweigh the hazardous impact of the dumpsite and landfills to the health of the people, especially the poor who are more directly affected, Lustre stressed.

On Thursday, the President and other officials visited the dumpsite in Montalban.

Ms Macapagal also summoned all Metro Manila mayors and barangay captains to an emergency meeting to solve the garbage problem in Metro Manila.

Three major agreements were reached to solve the garbage crisis by Christmas, according to Garchitorena.

She said the first agreement was to immediately ship garbage to Bataan. The second was to use a dumpsite in Rodriguez. The third was the dredging of Tullahan River in Malabon to rid it of garbage and silt that cause floods.

Garchitorena said the President called the meeting because she was disappointed that the garbage problem had not been solved six months after a garbage summit was held in Malacañang.

All Metro Manila mayors, barangay captains, leaders of large residential subdivisions and heads of commercial establishments were called to the meeting. Barangay captains of the seven biggest barangays in Quezon City, one of which has 300,000 residents, attended the meeting.

Garchitorena said the President felt the only way to solve the garbage problem is to "really call the frontline local government officials."

With a report from Nelson F. Flores

Expert pushes composting, recycling

By Joey Papa

AN ENVIRONMENTAL engineering expert, Peter Anthony Abaya, does not favor the establishment of an offshore landfill or an incinerator to solve the garbage problem even if, by his count, there are already about 10,000 dumpsites scattered all over the country, most of them new.

This, Abaya said, is definitely in violation of Republic Act No. 9003, the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, the first that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed just five days after her oath-taking at Edsda.

Abaya believes that all local officials should hasten the information campaign and training of households, communities, and establishments on proper waste reduction, sorting, segregation, re-use, recycling and composting.

"Composting will bring back topsoil to the massively eroded areas," he said, and cited a study by the Tokyo Institute of Technology which said that the lahar areas of Pampanga are starting to produce corn, which means that the area is starting to have nutrients.

However, he added, "these areas still need a mix of phosphates to turn fully agricultural once again. The good news from that same study is that the mix of phosphates can be found right in Metro Manila—in all those biodegradable waste that we generate every day and which some government officials would rather bury in a landfill or burn in an incinerator."

Abaya also recommends that materials recovery facilities (MRFs) be set up all over the country, in accordance with the law, to receive and process segregated waste. Due to the crisis situation, the MRFs can also process the already existing mixed waste.

From there, the nonbiodegradable materials will be picked up by the recyclers. The biowastes are turned into compost and organic fertilizer right there and then, for transporting to the lahar parts and other degraded agriculture and forest areas or even just to community gardens.

Abaya believes that the national government and local officials should push composting and recycling to the limit, in full compliance with the law.

Abaya knows what he speaks of. For 19 months, he steered the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources under former secretary Antonio Cerilles and OIC-secretary Jomari Gerochi. During that time, there was pressure to bring Metro Manila's garbage to Semirara Island, but the EMB under Abaya firmly refused to issue MMDA the required environment clearance certificate (ECC).

Youngest

Abaya, 36, holds a master in engineering, specializing in environmental engineering and civil engineering, from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. In 1989, he obtained his

ABAYA

AB Economics degree, under the honors program, and his BS Civil Engineering degree from the University of California-Irvine.

In July 2001, out of 1,780 applicants from all over the world, Abaya was the youngest and only Asian among the only 35 who qualified to be admitted to the prestigious Beahrs Environmental Leadership program on Sustainable Environmental Management at the University of California in Berkeley.

Unfortunately, Abaya was not able to go. Secretary Heherson Alvarez, for reasons only he knows, did not allow Abaya to go even if this would have been a distinct honor for the country. Soon after that, Alvarez formally charged Abaya with "grave misconduct" for allegedly issuing import clearances for chlorofluourocarbon supplies (CFC or freon) in excess of the DENR chemical control order, just before Abaya would receive his appointment papers as assistant secretary from the Office of the President.

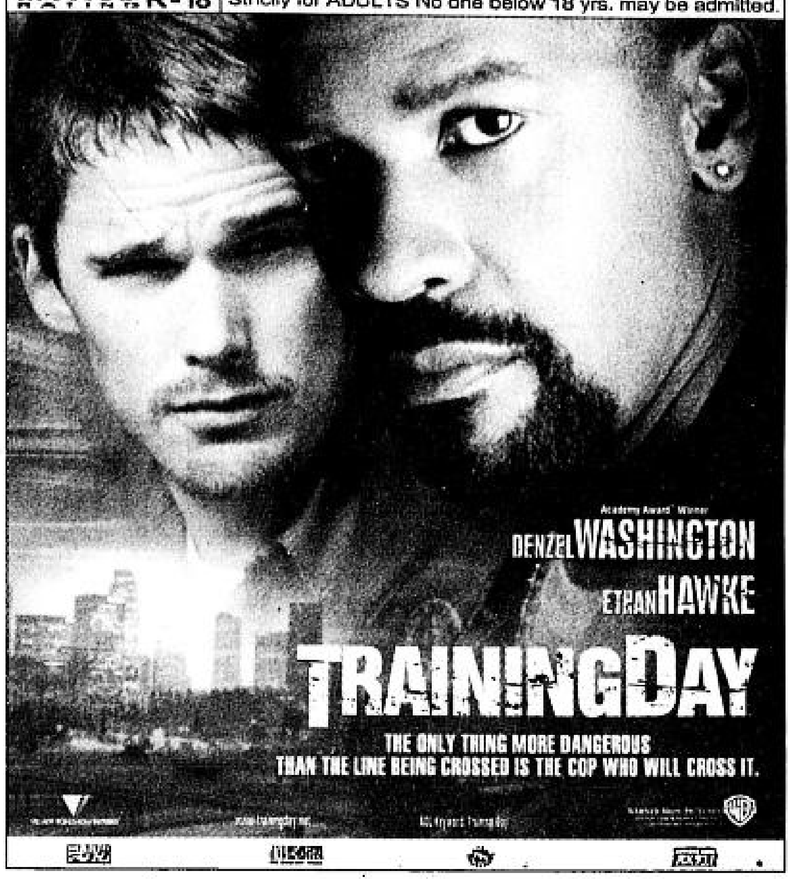
Alvarez also issued press releases accusing Abaya of having "conspired with corporations to import hazardous chemicals in a deliberate effort to exploit commercial opportunity."

Wrong math

Abaya responded by explaining that Alvarez's charge was based on the wrong computation. "There can only be one answer to 1 + 1 and that is 2," he said. The formula that Alvarez used, he said, provided for an allowance that would take into account the unregistered users of CFC and not just the few registered ones.

Otherwise, Abaya said, the Philippine government would be reporting erroneously to the Montreal Protocol—an agreement among nations, including the Philippines, to protect the ozone layer—that we have phased out as much when in fact many more would still be using CFC by relying on the backdoor or smuggled supplies.

The 75 percent allowance for the unregistered users is what Alvarez ignored or overlooked in his computation, Abaya explained.



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THE HOLE - R 18 11:45, 2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:30	A HARD DAY'S NIGHT - GP 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	13 DAYS - P 13 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10

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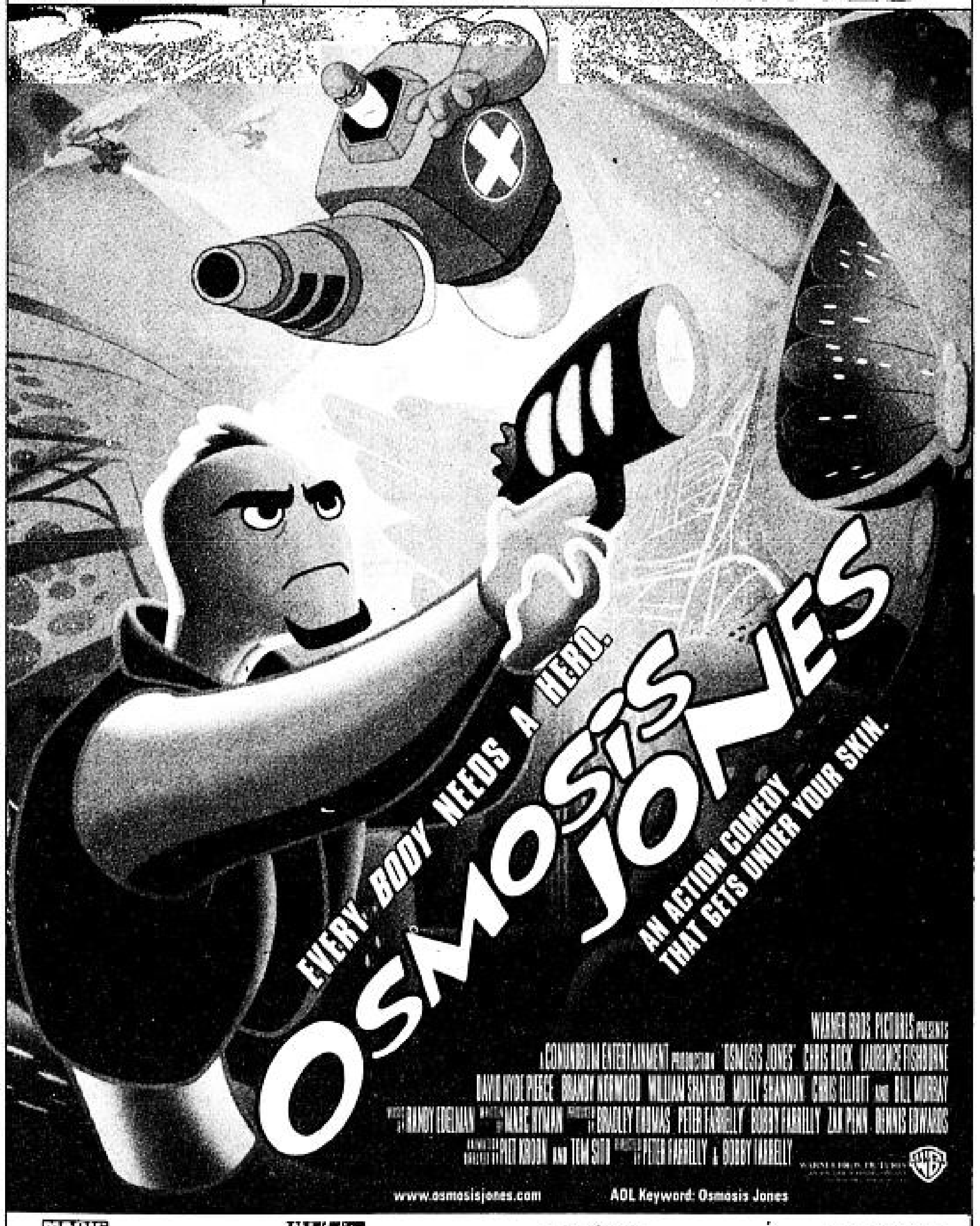

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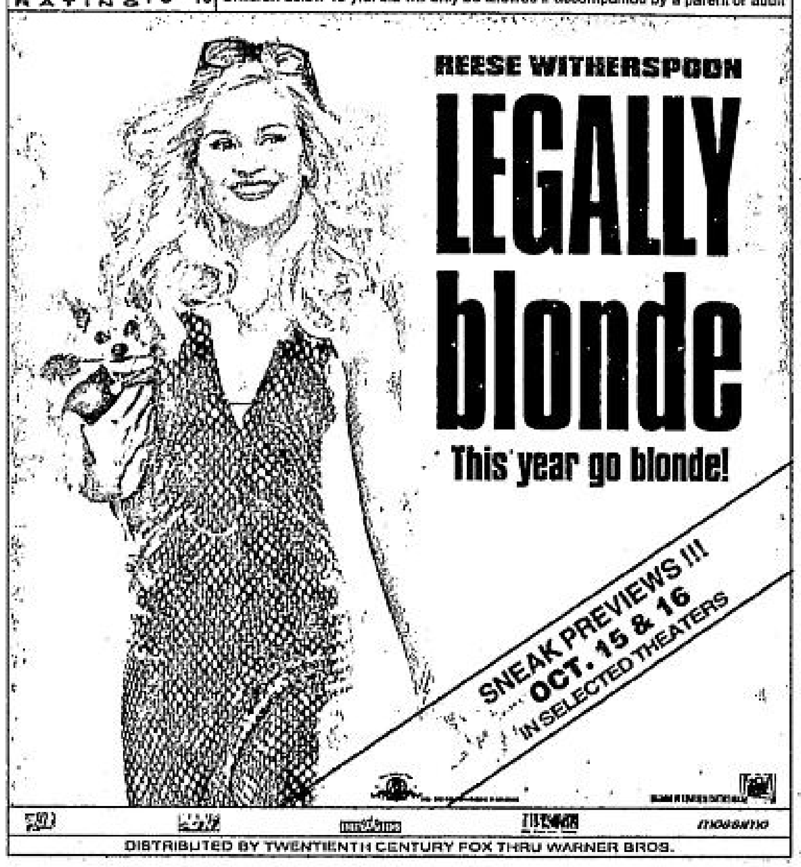

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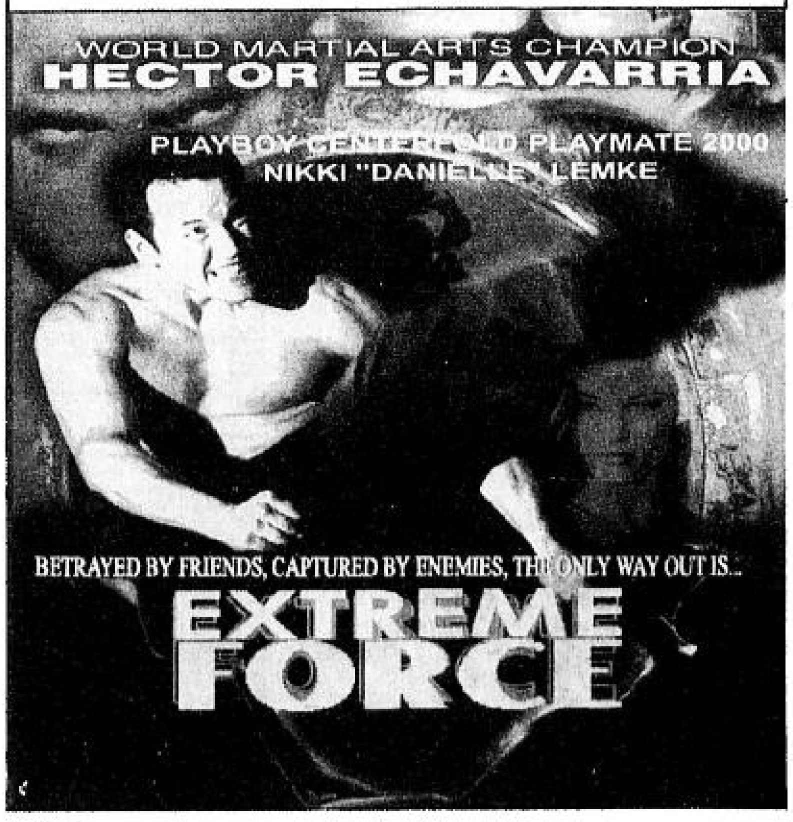

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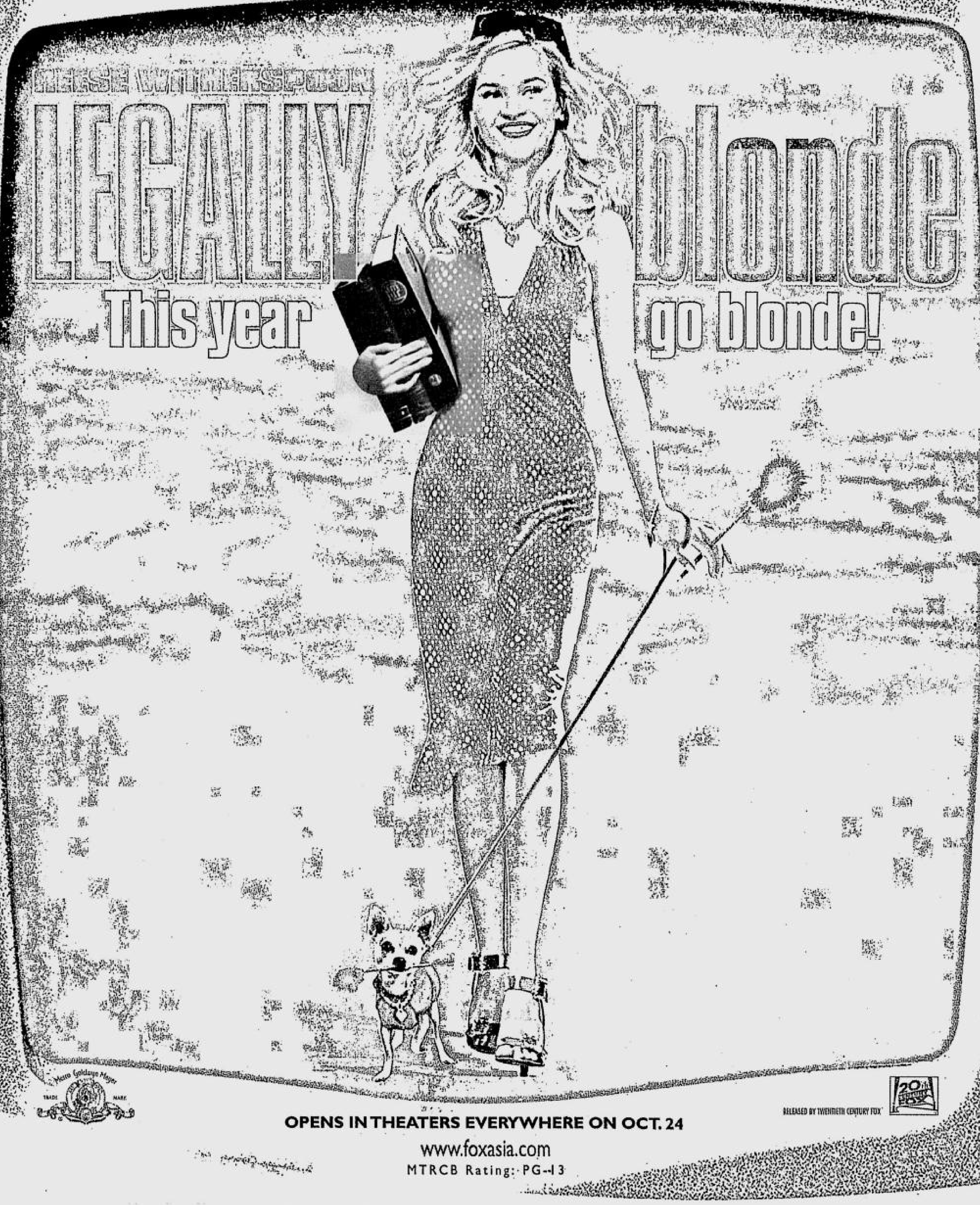

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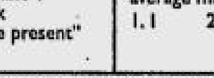
MTRCB Rating: PG-13

Join the Smart Cinema Club now and get access to exclusive Legally Blonde picture messages, screen savers, ring tone, trivia games, and personality tests!

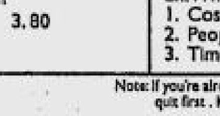
Official Legally Blonde picture messages

LEGALLY blonde

lbflowertxt
(Picture Message/Screen Saver)

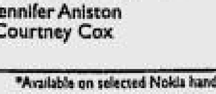


lbflower
(Picture Message/Screen Saver)

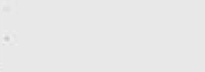


lbelle
(Picture Message/Screen Saver)

lbheart
(Picture Message/Screen Saver)



lbpuppy
(Picture Message/Screen Saver)



lbslogan
(Picture Message/Screen Saver)

To join, key in **JOIN CINEMA**. Once a member, you can download Legally Blonde picture messages (key in **PIC LB** for list of keywords, and **PIC** <keyword> to download), screen savers** (key in **SAVER LB** for list of keywords, and **SAVER** <keyword> to download), ring tone* (key in **TONE** <keyword> to download), or experiment with the trivia games and personality tests listed below. Send all commands to 239.

• Soundtrack available through MCA Univeral featuring the hit song "Perfect Day" by Hoku.

Are You Legally Correct?	Elle Knows	Blonde Scale	Blonde Trivia
Do you know the law? Key in **PLAY LB** and see if you have good judgement. Ex: What is "en banc"? 1. A French bank 2. "All judges are present" 3. Clue?	Time for some mental exercises! Key in **PLAY LB2**. Ex: How many birthdays does the average man have? 1. 1 2. 75 3. 80	How blonde are you? Take this quiz to see where you fall on the scale. Key in **PLAY LB3**. Ex: Which magazine do you subscribe to? 1. Cosmo, Glamour, and Elle 2. People 3. Time	Test your blonde know-how! Simply key in **PLAY LB4**. Ex: Who plays Phoebe on Friends? 1. Duh! Lisa Kudrow 2. Jennifer Aniston 3. Courtney Cox

Picture messages, screen savers and ring tone are P12.50 each.
All other text messages sent are P2.50 each.

Note: If you're already playing a Smart Cinema Club game, quit first. Key in QUIT and send to 239.

*Available on selected Nokia handsets only
**Available on Nokia 3310, 3330, and 8250

Promo Mechanics

1. From Oct. 13-17, 2001, all Smart Cinema Club members who download a logo, picture message, group graphic or screen saver get one computer-generated point each. The top 150 members with the highest points collected will win two tickets for the Legally Blonde premiere at SM Megamall Cinema 2, on Oct. 20, 2001, 8:00 p.m. To know the number of points accumulated, key in DPOINTS and send to 239.
2. Winners will be notified via text message or a call to their registered celfone no. only.
3. Smart Money cardholders who use their card to buy any movie ticket at SM Megamall cinema from Oct. 12-17 are also entitled to a pair of Legally Blonde premiere tickets.
4. Winners of both promos can claim the prizes during the premiere night, Oct. 20, 2001, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the Smart Cinema Club Booth in SM Megamall Cinema 2.
   A. Smart Cinema Club winners must present their active Smart GSM celfones with the winning SIM number and valid I.D. w/ photo.
   B. Smart Money winners must present their Smart Money receipt as proof of purchase. They can avail themselves of the promo only once.
5. Promos are valid for GMA residents only.

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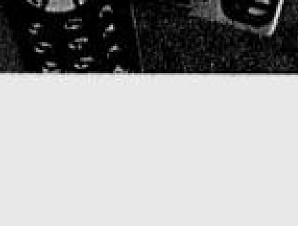
See flyers for more details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3468 Series of 2001.



SMART Money Use your Smart Money MasterCard at any SM Megamall cinema and get two free Legally Blonde tickets!

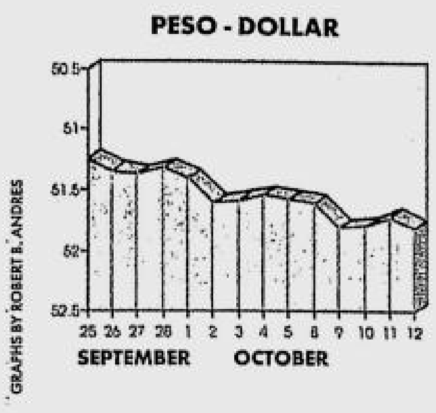
BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Benpres won't rescue phone unit

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



Peso-Dollar Rate

₱ 51.80 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 12, 2001

¥ 121.34 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 12, 2001

GOLD:$282.50/283.00

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 12, 2001

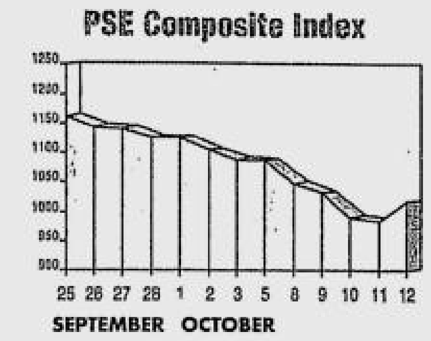
STOCK MARKET

Stocks up by 2.8%

SHARE prices gained 2.8 percent Friday as investors snapped up bargains after a sharp gain on Wall Street to push the key local index back above the psychological 1,000-point level.

"Hopefully, we could hold above 1,000 but I still have some doubts because we have not gotten data on how the (local) economy has responded after the Sep. 11 terror attacks in the US," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities Inc.

STOCKS/ B2



(See stock market report on Page B2)

THE LOPEZ-OWNED Benpres Holdings Corp. will not offer financial support to its debt-ridden telephone unit, which is asking its creditors to restructure about $477 million worth of debt, a company official said yesterday.

Bayan Telecommunications Inc. (Bayantel), a subsidiary of Benpres, said the management would concentrate on getting the approval of the creditors to restructure the debt, $266 million of which was unsecured.

"We expressed to our creditors during a meeting this week as well as in previous discussions that we will not be getting any financial support from our shareholders," Bayantel chief financial officer Gary Olivar said in television interview.

"At this point, I'm focused on getting back to the table with the creditors. We are optimistic we can continue with this on a consensual basis," he said. Bayantel and its financial adviser, Bank of America Asia, presented a proposal for debt restructuring to creditors on Monday.

Bank of America proposed to unsecured creditors of Bayantel to write off 18 months of interest from Jan. 19 this year.

It also proposed a 15-year repayment of loans, including a five-year grace period on principal payments.

Proposed interest rates are three-month London Interbank Offered Rate (Libor) plus one percentage point for US dollar-denominated debt and 91-day Treasury bill rate plus one percentage point for Philippine peso denominated debt.

Bayantel has 34 local and foreign creditors. Its creditor banks include Equitable PCI Bank, Land Bank of the Philippines, Bank of the Philippine Islands, United Coconut Planters Bank, Deutsche Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, and the Export Development Corp of Canada.

The creditors have not yet approved the proposal.

An earlier report said Bayantel creditors were asking the Lopezes to provide shareholder support to their cash-strapped telecommunications unit.

"The absence of shareholder support is not something the banks will take sitting down," an official of one of Bayantel's creditor-banks was quoted as saying.

"Banks have the credit facilities (extended to the Lopez group). We can politely tell them, this can affect your total relationship with us," he added.

Benpres was up one centavo at 88 centavos yesterday, as the main index opened higher after four straight days of steep falls. *Reuters*

Trade surplus seen lower this year

THE COUNTRY'S merchandise trade surplus is expected to slide to $1.2 billion this year, from $6.69 billion last year, as tumbling exports take their toll.

A survey of 10 economists showed that fears of a sharp slowdown in global economic activity in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States have dashed hopes for an export rebound in the fourth quarter and heightened chances of a trade deficit next year.

In June, economists estimated that the country would post a 2001 surplus of $6.15 billion. The United States, the Philippines biggest export market, is widely expected to slide into recession this year, as consumers go into their shells after the attacks.

"Primarily, the slide is due to the contraction on the export front, the double-digit contraction of around 12-13 percent (by July) this year is the worst since 1985," GK Goh Singapore economist Song Sun Wen said.

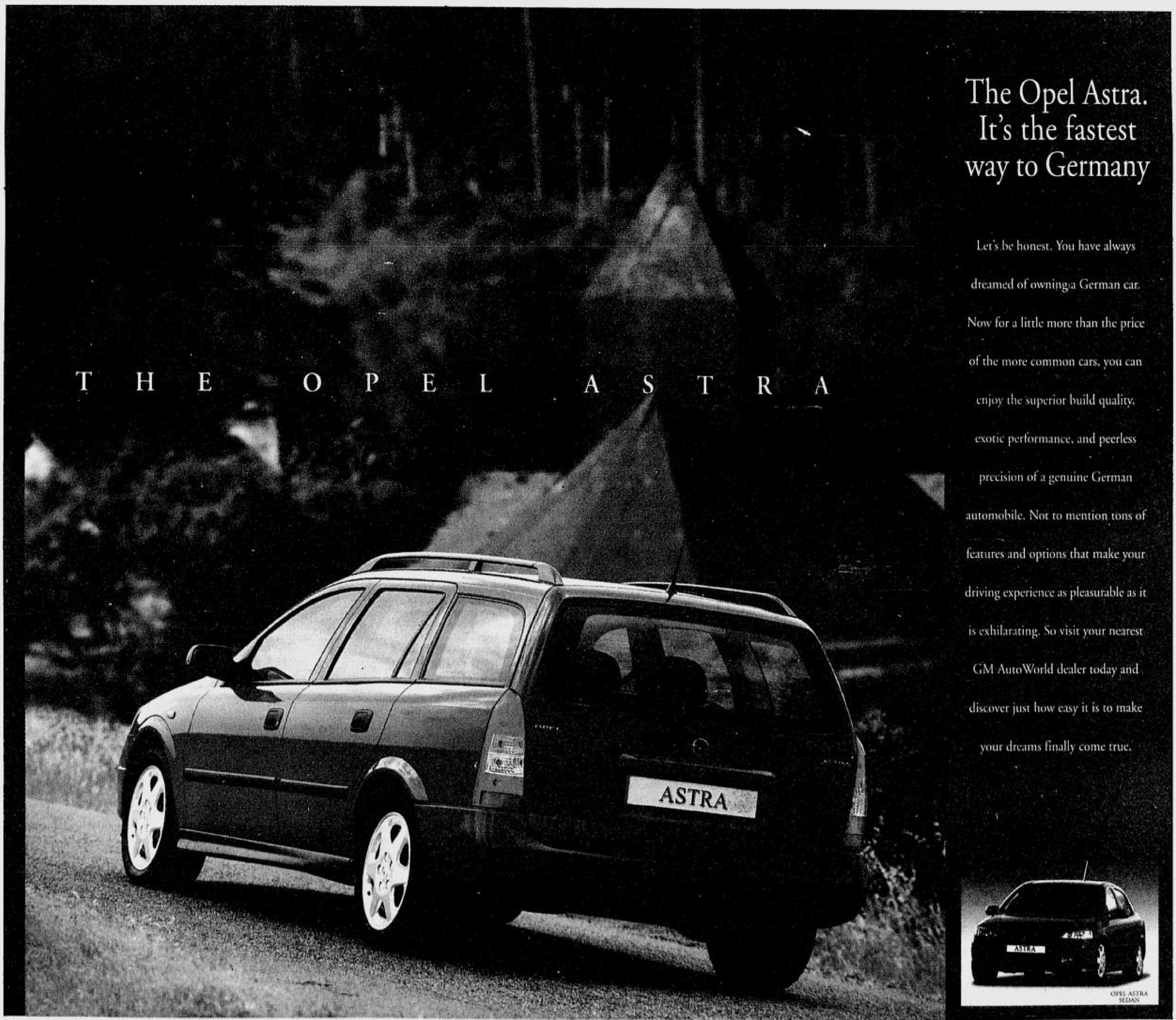
The last released trade figures in August showed exports down around 13 percent from a year ago.

Government officials now see a 10-15 percent contraction in exports for the year.

But most economists said it was likely to be much higher in the wake of the air attacks in the United States.

"We see an average drop of 16.1 percent for the year, with the decline hitting above 20 percent in the next couple of months," ING Barings Philippines

TRADE/ B2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GM AutoWorld

URC expanding plastic packaging film production

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

UNIVERSAL Robina Corp., the food manufacturing arm of JG Summit Holdings Inc., is spending P860 million to double its production of plastic packaging films for sale to the domestic and export markets.

URC is currently the biggest producer of bi-axially oriented polypropylene BOPP films used for printing and laminating application, tape film for adhesive tape application, and heat sealable film for flexo and gravure printing, and laminating application. It has a 46-percent share of the domestic market.

The company is planning to sell its product at P68 per kilogram for plain BOPP films and P73.40 per kilogram for co-extruded polypropylene films.

URC plans to export half of its production to Indonesia, Japan, Australia, China, Vietnam, Singapore, Ethiopia, Myanmar, India, Europe, Korea, Bangladesh, Thailand, Hong Kong and USA.

The expansion project will start commercial operations in October next year. At least 75 percent of the project cost will come from URC's retained earnings, which reached P8.31 billion.

It was granted non-pioneer incentives by the Board of Investments, that include a three-year income tax holiday, additional deduction for labor expense, tax credit on raw materials and supplies, and importation of consigned equipment.

URC established the BOPP plant in 1997 in Batangas City near JG Summit's petrochemical plant. The company did not apply for incentives previously because packaging was not part of the BOI's investment priorities plan.

The plant had an initial production capacity of 10,975 metric tons and this is expected to increase to as much as 22,311 tons.

URC posted P16.441 million in profits last year on sales of P583.406 million, reversing two years of consecutive losses in 1999 (P20.492 million) and 1998 (P41.194 million).

GOINGS-ON

MetLife's focused strategy

METLIFE Insurance Company of the Philippines Inc. has embarked on a focused marketing strategy, introducing innovative ways to offer its products to customers, in a bid to aggressively expand its policyholder base.

Based on the new strategy, Metlife is dedicating its efforts on presenting life insurance direct to the consumers and through strategic alliance partners.

Among the unique insurance packages being offered by Metlife Phils is Universal Life, which provides the policyholder the advantage of having flexibility in premium payments and death benefits, including an accumulation fund. These provide benefits for both the policyholder and his family.

Robinsons-Smart tie-up

THE ROBINSONS Malls and Smart Communications recently forged an agreement formalizing the Robinsons Malls-Smart Money promo, which is ongoing until Oct. 21. Shoppers can now enjoy the convenience of "cashless" shopping at Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Place Manila by using their Smart Money Cards in participating mall outlets.

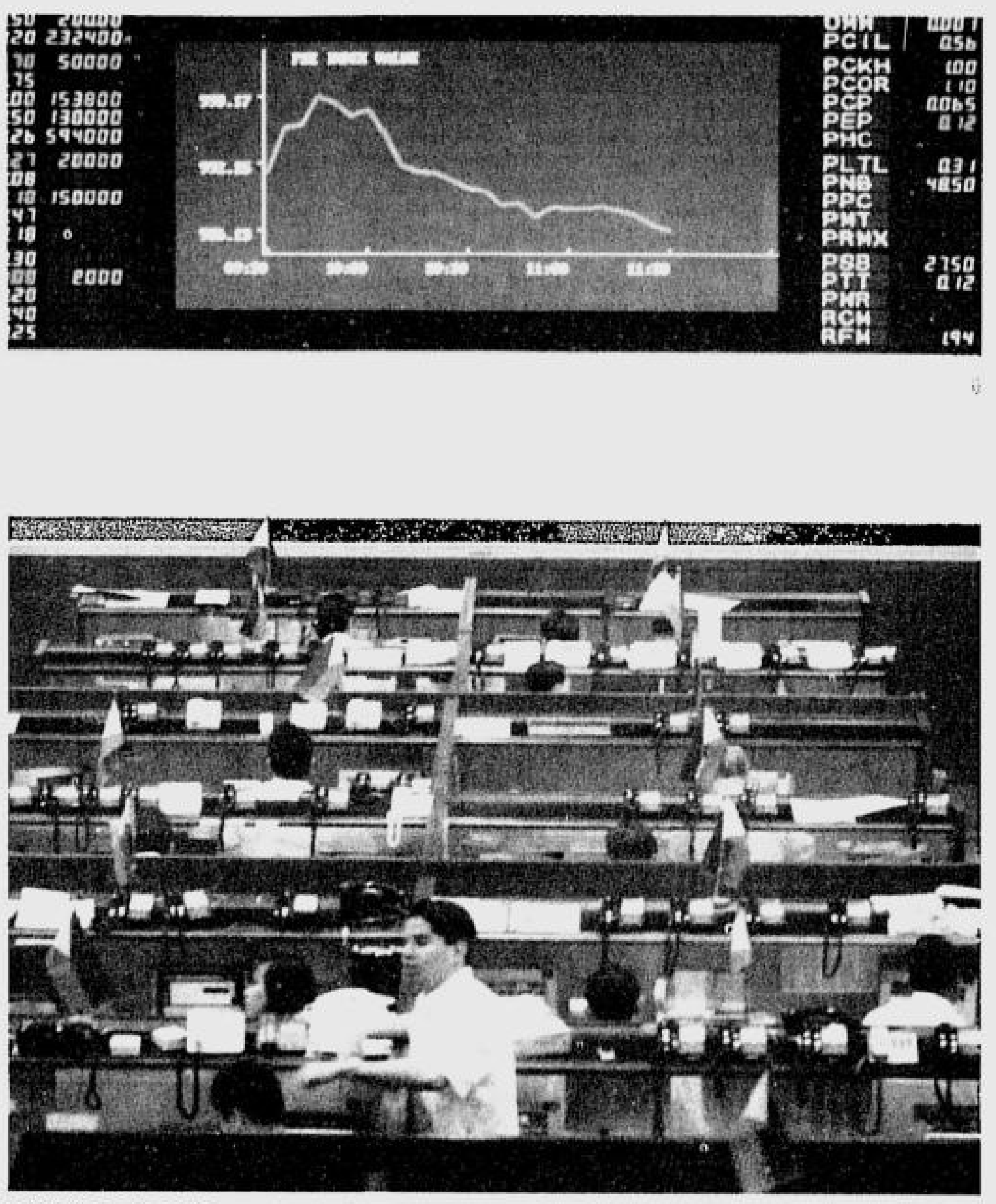
Smart Money Card users will also have the chance to win prizes for every single receipt purchases worth P300. Weekly prizes include a brand new Nokia 3310 with a Smart Phone Kit, Smart Money SIM packs, Smart Money jackets, and Smart Money Gift Packs. The first weekly draw was recently held at the Smart Money promo booth at the fast food center of Robinsons Galleria.

Quality congress

THE PHILIPPINE Quality and Productivity Movement will hold the 19th National Quality and Productivity Congress on Oct. 29-30 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko. This year's meet adopts the theme "Quality and Productivity for Good Governance."

Keynote speakers are Sen. Francis N. Pangilinan for the opening day and Sen. Sergio Osmeña III for the closing ceremonies. Highlighting the event is the announcement of winners of the prestigious Philippine Quality and Productivity Awards.

The event will address critical productivity issues that beset the country. It will focus on the need for good governance in relation to the objectives of the present administration. The adoption of quality and productivity concepts among all key sectors is envisioned as the foundation for good governance.



THE ELECTRONIC board at the Philippine Stock Exchange shows a downward trend Thursday, Oct. 11, 2001 in the financial district of Makati greatly affected by the ongoing US-led air strike in Afghanistan. The market, however, slightly improved yesterday registering a 2.8-percent increase in share prices. A sharp gain on Wall Street pushed the key local index back above the psychological 1,000-point level. AP

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, October 12, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42.5	45	42.5	45	673,700
China Banking Corp.	550	550	550	550	60
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	16.5	17.5	16	17.25	832,300
Global Business Bank Inc	74.5	85	74.5	85	718,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	178	178	172	175	45,380
Philippine National Bank	48	49	48	49	493,500
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	1,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	170,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1280	1310	1280	1310	2,800
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1085	1110	1085	1100	9,330
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	1,560,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	590	600	590	600	1,530
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	10,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.25	3.5	3.25	3.5	160,000
Piltel	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	345	352.5	345	350	452,250
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.018	40,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	22	22.5	21.75	21.75	229,100
Manila Electric Co. B	32	33	31.5	32.5	1,465,700
Petron Corp.	1.14	1.2	1.14	1.18	8,935,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.24	1.34	1.24	1.34	1,357,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	173,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	71,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	10.75	11	10.75	11	240,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	24.5	24.75	24.5	24.75	1,600
RFM Corp.	1.98	2	1.98	2	719,000
San Miguel Corp. A	38.5	39	38	39	68,400
San Miguel Corp. B	44.5	46	44	45.5	517,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	80,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.3	2,574,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.75	1,500
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.58	0.62	0.58	0.62	80,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.44	300,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	8,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	630,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.15	300,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.88	0.91	0.87	0.88	15,810,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.145	2,950,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.68	0.66	0.62	0.66	600,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22.25	23	22	22.75	438,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	100,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
Ionics Inc.	6	6	6	6	217,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.26	1.3	1.26	1.28	933,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.57	0.6	0.57	0.6	1,620,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	220,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.19	0.21	0.19	0.2	3,090,000
Music Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	360,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.045	0.046	0.045	0.045	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.11	0.1	0.11	2,370,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	140,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10	10	10	10	30,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	40,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	23.75	24.75	23.75	24.75	2,138,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	575	575	575	575	60
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	58,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.006	33,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	3.75	3.9	3.75	3.9	10,188,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	50,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.16	1,220,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.225	0.2	0.225	3,560,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.14	1.22	1.14	1.18	13,343,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	70,000
SM Development Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	200,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	4.85	5.1	4.85	5.1	3,556,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	400,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	20,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.02	0.022	0.02	0.02	99,900,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	800,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	300,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	25,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	2,200,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	6,420,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	4,040,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	7,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	3,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	380,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	20,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	140,000

CURRENCIES

Oct. 12, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.107665	1.000000	51.7940
Japan	Yen	0.009124	0.008237	0.4266
United Kingdom	Pound	1.601019	1.445400	74.8630
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.142019	0.128215	6.6408
Switzerland	Franc	0.673517	0.608051	31.4934
Canada	Dollar	0.708316	0.639468	33.1206
Singapore	Dollar	0.609444	0.550206	28.4974
Australia	Dollar	0.552066	0.498405	25.8144
Bahrain	Dinar	2.938260	2.652661	137.3919
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.295346	0.266638	13.8102
Brunei	Dollar	0.608942	0.549753	28.4739
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000101	0.0052
Thailand	Baht	0.024763	0.022356	1.1579
UAE	Dirham	0.301652	0.272331	14.1051
Korea	Won	0.000857	0.000774	0.0401
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.902800	46.7596
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.461594	23.9078
France	Franc	0.152450	0.137631	7.1285
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.409673	21.2186
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.065609	3.3982
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022380	1.1591
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000466	0.0241
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.151840	7.8644
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004503	0.2332
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005426	0.2810
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.02238	1.1591
Ireland	Punt	1.269739	1.14632	59.3725

DISCLOSURES

NAMED independent directors of **Global Business Bank Inc.** were Edmund Gaisano and John Ng.

* * *

BELLE Corp. denied it was delaying the planned initial public offering for the newly formed **Highlands Prime Leisure and Properties Inc.**

* * *

ELECTED independent director of **Bogo-Medellin Milling Co. Inc.** was George Olivar.

* * *

PRUDENTIAL Bank will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 14, 4 p.m. at the 3/F boardroom of Prudential Bank Building, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of Sept. 30 are entitled to notice of and vote during the meeting.

* * *

CENTRO Escolar University bought back 5,000 of its shares at P9 per share and another 3,000 shares at P9.60 per share.

* * *

KOREAN firm **Telsk Co.** and **iPeople Inc.** signed a memorandum of understanding for both companies to invest $4 million for contact center in Manila.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

REPORTING RULE

Violators of dirty money law face administrative sanctions

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has issued a circular imposing additional administrative penalties on banks found violating a provision of the Anti-Money Laundering Act on strict record-keeping and reporting.

The administration sanctions are on top of the fines and criminal charges to be imposed on violators as provided by the law.

Section 9 of Republic Act No. 9160, known as the Anti-Money Laundering Act, requires banks, quasi-banks, trust entities and other institutions regulated by the BSP to keep records and report suspicious transactions.

BSP Circular 302 was signed to reinforce the provisions of the new law while the implementing rules and regulations were still being drafted. The BSP move also aims to give the law more teeth as the Philippine government starts to track down accounts linked to the Abu Sayyaf group.

Tracking down and freezing the assets of the Abu Sayyaf group and other terrorists was one of the points of cooperation that the Macapagal administration has committed to the US government.

The central bank noted that its policy-making Monetary Board, may, at its discretion, "impose upon any covered institution, its directors or officers the administrative sanctions" under its power.

Under Sec.37 of the Central Bank Act, local monetary authorities may impose additional fines, suspend a bank's rediscounting privilege or access to BSP lending windows, its foreign exchange operations, its authority to accept new deposits, its interbank clearing privileges, and revoke the violator's license.

A bank is required to report to the Anti-Money Laundering Council within five working days any suspicious transaction. The information, said the law, must not be leaked to any other person or group including the media.

The Council is composed of the heads of the BSP, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Insurance Commission.

Aside from reporting, banks are also required to maintain a system of verifying the true identity of a client and other persons acting in behalf of a customer.

"The provision of existing laws to the contrary, notwithstanding anonymous accounts, accounts under fictitious names and other similar accounts shall be prohibited," Sec. 9 of the new law states.

While numbered peso and dollar deposit accounts are still allowed, the BSP may conduct an annual audit to see if the banks are keeping records of the true identity of the people behind those accounts.

The anti-money laundering law also requires banks to maintain and store records of all transactions for five years from the time it was forged. A record of closed accounts will be stored for five years from the time these were terminated.

Visa Securities sells trading right

LOCAL brokerage house Visa Securities Corp. has sold its trading right in the Philippine Stock Exchange to Paul Wee of All Suwerte Securities Corp.

The transaction marked the first case of divestment of a trading right by a PSE member-stockholder under the new regime in the PSE, which shed converted itself into a stock corporation last Aug. 8.

Under the demutualization program, the PSE issued shares to each of its 184 member-brokers. Share ownership and trading rights were segregated, which allowed members to continue trading even if they have unloaded their shares. This means that although All Suwerte will be taking over Visa's trading right, the former will not necessarily become a PSE stockholder. The owner of Visa can sell the PSE shares separately, assuming it can find a buyer under the difficult economic conditions that have forced other brokerage houses operating in the country to close shop.

Visa is owned by Vichelli Churchill Say, son of Victor Say who is a nominee of another PSE member-broker Cualoping Securities. The selling price of Visa's trading right was not disclosed.

In a memorandum to brokers yesterday, PSE senior vice president Jose Cervantes said the 15-member board of the bourse has already approved the sale of its trading right subject to certain conditions.

Visa, through its president, was required to submit to the PSE an undertaking that would hold the bourse "free and harmless from any and all taxes, liabilities and other claims of third parties arising from the said sale transaction."

Cervantes also clarified that the exercise of the trading right by Wee for the purpose of operating a brokerage firm in the PSE was not included in the approval.

Trade surplus seen lower this year

(From page B1)

research head and economist Joey Cuyegkeng said.

Other economists said they saw declines of between 12 to 15 percent.

A more stable currency and some hopes for continued firm domestic demand will likely see a pick up in imports, further pressuring the surplus, some of the economists noted.

While there were some signs of a bottoming in exports, those polled say the US attacks have put back chances of a recovery into the first or second quarter next year.

"The big question mark for everyone is when will the electronics market bottom out and show some hope for turnaround," S&P MMS economist David Cohen said.

Electronics make up between 50 to 60 percent of the country's total exports.

"We are pushing back the turnaround in the US economy past the end of the year to probably the first quarter . . . though if things get much worse (after the attacks) perhaps we might see a contraction in the first quarter and then recovery in the second," Cohen said.

In the same survey, the country's inflation rate is seen at 6.41 percent his year, easing in the second half due to stable food prices, the steady peso and subdued demand.

In the previous poll in June, the average figure was seen at 6.24 percent.

The annual inflation was 4.4 percent in 2000, and the government is expecting inflation this year to reach between 6 and 7 percent. Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the figure should be below 6.5 percent.

Consumer prices have shown signs of moderating in the second half with the annual rise in September 6.1 percent after 6.3 percent in August and 6.8 in July.

"What is accounting for the improvement is basically weak demand . . . I think that will persist for the remainder of the year," said an economist with a commercial bank, who declined to be named.

Demand pressures are seen to have eased substantially with expectations of a major global economic slowdown.

"Agriculture continues to perform and that keeps the headline numbers from (pushing up too much)," Cuyegkeng said.

Food prices make up 55 percent of the total inflation basket and favorable weather this year has helped boost food crops.

The economists saw little real threat from oil prices in the wake of the attacks.

"Crude oil prices were pretty high last year and we have seen them come down a bit this year overall," Cuyegkeng said, adding that Opec actions since the attacks have also helped dampen upward price pressures.

"For now the situation has been remarkably benign . . . clearly there is the outlook for slower global economic growth," S&P/MMS regional economist Dave Cohen said. *Reuters*

Stocks up by 2.8%

(From page B1)

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index added 27.84 points to end at 1,017.87.

Turnover rose to 375 million shares worth P582 million compared with 205 million shares worth P457 million the previous day.

Don Malabanan of A and A Securities Inc. said that yesterday's rally was expected after market losses in the past five sessions pushed the composite index to 10-year lows.

He said some investors might be waiting for the release of earnings figures for the three months to September later this month to get clearer trading cues.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. gained P10 to P350 while Ayala Land Inc. added 20 centavos to P3.90. *AFP*

Human development: RP's tough challenge

Between ₱86B and ₱176B needed up to 2015 for 'satisfactory' delivery of basic social services

AVAILABLE resources to fund basic social services to satisfactory levels are expected to fall short by anywhere from P86 billion to P176 billion between the next year and 2015, according to expert estimates.

A low-cost assumption says the range may go down to P78.2 billion to P168.6 billion—still a sizeable resource gap that must be breached if the Philippines is to fulfill its commitment to devote 20 percent of its budget to human development priorities.

The estimated resource gaps were computed in a paper by Rosario Manasan of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies and presented at a forum that deliberated on how the Philippines is coping with issues related to financing for development.

The first government-private sector consultation on "Financing for Development," held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong, was part of a series of consultations preparatory to a global Financing for Development Conference to be convened by the United Nations in Monterey, Mexico, in March next year.

At Friday's consultations, UN resident representative Terence Jones stressed the importance of the series of deliberations among the government, private sector, civil-society organizations and international donor community in helping forge a national consensus to be presented at next year's global conference.

Issues

Among the issues to be discussed in the conference is drafting strategies to fund development initiatives, such as mobilizing local and international resources, and increasing international financial cooperation. Issues on external debt and international trade will also be tackled, added program manager Vincent Wierda of the United Nations Development Program.

Presentations were also made at the forum by the National Economic and Development Authority on the Medium-Term Development Plan and the government's projections for its resources vis-à-vis its human development priorities and by civil-society groups led by former Sen. Wigberto Tañada (now in the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement) and former National Treasurer Leonor Briones (now with Social Watch).

In her paper, Manasan sought to track Philippine government expenditures on the components of the 20-20 initiative, whereby countries pledged at the 1995 World Summit on Social Development to devote as much as 20 percent of their budgetary and official development assistance resources for human development priorities within 20 years until 2015. The commitments are intended to help them meet specific targets to achieve meaningful human development by 2015. These expenditures are in basic education, basic health care, nutrition, low-cost water supply and sanitation.

The study, which tracked expenditures from 1995 to 2000, was supported with funding by the UNDP and Unicef.

Budget reforms in education, in health and nutrition, and in the improvement of the tax effort, will largely spell the difference, Manasan said, between the bigger resource gap and smaller gap scenarios.

Mixed success

Manasan's findings indicate mixed success in the government's efforts to fund human development, even as there were apparent setbacks—for obvious reasons—during the 1997-1998 financial crisis. Actually, she said, the central government was "very close" to meeting ideal 20-20 ratios to total expenditures, but the financial crunch started to take its toll on the government's resources.

A massive shortfall in revenues then had led the government to impose a 25-percent reserve on total non-personal services appropriations of all national government agencies in 1998 and a 10-percent reserve as well on the internal revenue allotment share of local government units.

In July 1998, the government announced the exemption of major departments engaged in the delivery of basic social services from these mandatory reserves.

Despite this policy pronouncement, the social service sectors failed to maintain their share in the central government budget. The share of social services in total central government expenditures declined from 24.9 percent in 1997 to 24.8 percent in 1998, 24.5 percent in 1999 and 22.2 percent in 2000.

Resource gap

Along with the slippage in the human development priority ratio of the central government in 1998-2000, real per capita central government expenditures on 20-20-related items also went down during the period, dropping by 3.2 percent yearly in real terms from P418 in 1997 to P378 in 2000.

The allocation for the basic education sector, Manasan said, is likely to reach P622.4 billion in 2002-2006, compared with a resource requirement of the P655.4 billion. Thus, the cumulative resource gap needed to be breached for the period in order to meet human development commitments is computed to be P33 billion. Without budgetary restructuring, this could be higher.

To meet the WSSD commitments in basic health and nutrition, Manasan estimated the cumulative resource gap from 2000-2015 to vary from P40.1 billion to P59.7 billion based on high-cost assumptions; and from P31.8 billion to P51.3 billion based on low-cost assumptions.

The WSSD calls for access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation for all by year 2015.

Low-cost water supply and sanitation are expected to post a cumulative resource gap of P13.4 billion in 2002-2013.

Manasan estimated the resource shortfall by tracking the amount of budgetary resources likely to be made available for basic social services—estimating this based on the Medium-Term Development Plan's projections of gross domestic product and the implied national government revenue and budget allocation to various sectors.

(Editor's Note: This article was sent to the INQUIRER by the United Nations Development Program.)

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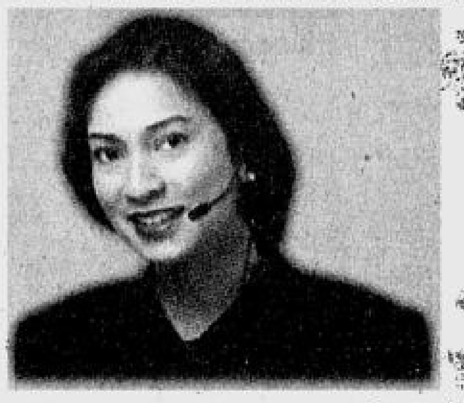

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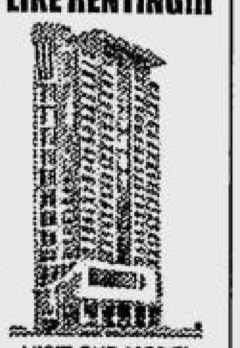

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CAR VANS 413-5383

Vans Coaster Bus 913-9123

Cars/Vans •8203894•

HONDA MB100 8908668

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

L300/Vans 578-8917(Roger)

StarexMB100HiAce9483535

MB H-Ace L3 Urvan 8257135

MB100/Hi-Ace Call 641-1859

Pajero/Safari 4530503

Vans,Bridal-Benz 9321699

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR SERVICE

AUV NO DEP NO DOWN with Driver 4565544 ED

CAR LOAN

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

FURNITURE

Mahony Furniture / Narra 636-5594/95 • 454-5801

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

10/20/35/55 Gen 3610215

Farmtrctor/Ford 3672002

PETS

Dog Trainer 09192050952

TRAINER 4528681 / 0919729020

SPORTING GOODS

• Billiards Sales/Service • Complete Acc's 8014494/8020566

Imported Billiard 22T, 35T Complete Acc's. 8618714/16 8613123 / 8613125

New Billiard P18.5T P22T P25T Ok C.Card 781-9453

WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN 7137284•09177939632

Buying Rolex Watch
Call 6310815;09178411520

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

Partly used Educ 6469097

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

WANTED:Computer Product CPU150&CMonitor=5T Call:8259579or09198669171

WE BUY **ROLEX**
5633742 5646593 09174383744

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

FASHION DESIGNER 7215611;7220876;7226739

FEMALE

Christian Pre-school near BF Resort LP needs a teacher. College grad a must & loves kids. Leave msg w/Elaine •673-6731•

Cut&Sew Ladies 5242386 G.K.

Skin Therapist & M.D. w/ Exp. Call Naly/Josie 721-9227

WTD: Yaya/H.Maids/Mdwife /Fam. Cook 6604589

DOMESTIC HELPER
TRAINER
Female/Education graduate/Familiar with household management/With working experience
OFFICE STAFFS
Female/Any course with good knowledge in computer/Graduate
CALL 729 27 97, 729 28 02.
Contact JONATHAN

zed™

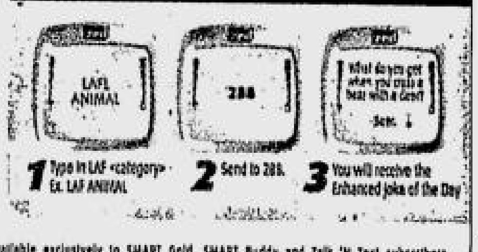
Dentures
₱50.00
(slightly used.)

Want another joke?
Then get more with zed...

Enhanced Joke of the Day

Get a hilarious joke on your SMART Gold, SMART Buddy or Talk 'N Text cell phone. And now you can choose what kind of joke you want. Just key-in LAF <category> and send to 288. Choose from four categories: ANIMAL, SCHOOL, COMPUTER or LOVE. So lighten up with a joke from zed. And you'll be flashing that toothy grin in no time.

How to get the Joke of the Day:


LAFL ANIMAL
288
What do you get when you cross a bear with a deer?
Sen. ↓

1 Type in LAF <category> Ex. LAF ANIMAL
2 Send to 288.
3 You will receive the Enhanced Joke of the Day

Available exclusively to SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscribers. ₱2.50 per joke of the Day. For keywords of other zed services, type in KEYS and send to 288.
www.zed.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

Booking/Ex-Truck Agents
(For M.M. & Prov.)
Adm./Field/Acctg. Staff
Sales/Brand/Prod. Mngr
Asst. Gen. Manager
Prod. Manager (w/exp. in Food / Can Process)
Food Tech. (Specialized in Food Sauce / Jam / Jelly /Energy Drink / Softdrink)
Encoder/Computer Prog.
Executive Secretary
Computer Graphic Artist
Delivery Drivers
Industrial Mechanic
Electrician/Latero
Applicants must be w/exp.
Apply personally at:
Foodworld Mfg. Corp.
292 8th Ave (East) Kal. City
between 8AM to 12Noon

CARE GIVER T5280722

DATAENCODER GRAD. OF 4 YRS PREF. COMP. SCIENCE APPLY AT 812 ELCANO ST., BINONDO MLA. BRING RESUME W/PICTURES NBI TRANSCRIPT BIRTH CERT. & PREV.EMPLOYMENT CERT. IF AVAILABLE BET 8:30-9:30AM

DECS Marikina City
OSEC-DECSB-TCHII-36077; TCH1-47713;47960; 36617; 36617; 36514; 36739-1998

•Hairdressers, Manicurist• Call:826-5624/850-9733

•URGENT OFFICE STA 9134470 Look for BHEBZ

Urgent:Ofc Staff m/f 18-45y /o Lokk for Daniel 9134470

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Specialized in USA/Japan/ Canada/Europe/Korea /Australia&Canadian Immigrant/Student VISA Assistance. Marikina ofc 9342070-72 Pasig 6422436

AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop, Inc. #233 Buendia Shopping Plaza Sen Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City will hold an auction sale on October 20, 2001 at 9:00AM including all items pawned up to May 2001 V.Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

4 Sale HS/College 8061574

EARN FR HOME 8531008/09178101851

EARN P1,000/DAY LIFETIME BUSINESS TESTED, SALEABLE Product GTD, REPEAT ORDERS LOW CAP. NO COMPETITOR ATTEND FREE TRAINING DAILY NO OBLIGATION 3600554 3508278

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

FRUIT JUICE DRINK MAKING BUSINESS FREE TRAINING! 2554843 UP 44 2589331 OR 38

★ GIFTS, TOYS★ GIVEAWAYS for CHRISTMAS
Exhibit start Nov5-Dec3
Rent per Stall P7T 20% for "Early Bird"&SSSmembers
Livelihood Exhibit Center
East Ave. (across LTO) QC
Call 9257212 9257365
Cell No. 09178480612

ROYALE BARBERSHOP P1.1M complete facilities 21m Tel#822-3995 Pque City

RTW 4 Tiange Bazar3738821

Rush 2Units Vendo Mach. 30 & 24 Selections P120Th & P100Th or Best Offer Dr. De Guzman 414-5355 or 0918-7859291

Tear Gas Self-Defense! 141913099

Want to Earn 100%+Profit Daily by Selling Toilet Tank Fittings T# 631-9839 Agent / Exporter Needed

WANTED SUPPLIERS DRIED SEACUCUMBER (TREPANG) SUBMIT SAMPLE 8320494 8338031 09163230600

WEEKLY 4,800 CASH!
Catch the wave today! 800-4228

Work From Home 8937903

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late **ANTONIA MURO MELON** has been extrajudicially settled with Partition among her heirs per Doc No. 701 Page No. 150 Book I Series 2001 before Not. Public Atty. Marcos Estrada of QC (PDI-Oct. 6, 13 & 20,2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of CARMEN V. LARA was extrajudicially settled with waiver of share by the heirs per Doc 135, Page 27 Book 5, Series of 2001 of Notary Public for the City of Manila Antonio A. Baranda. (PDI-10/6,13, & 20 2001)

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

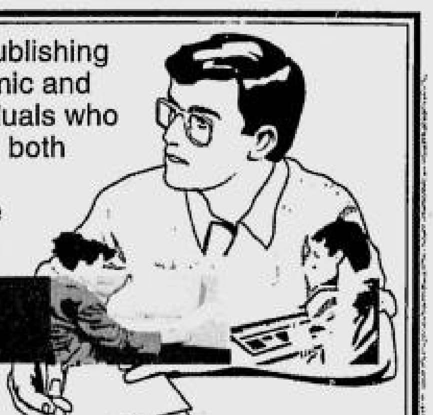
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.

Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day.

Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

We are a prestigious publishing company inviting dynamic and highly motivated individuals who are equally proficient in both **English** and **Filipino languages** to fill-up the following key positions:



EDITOR

He/she should have significant experience in the publishing industry. He/she must be reader-focused, possessing a nose for news and an eye for detail. He/she must also have a good feel of the pulse of the middle class. On top of his/her editorial expertise, he/she should be a visionary and a leader, being able to manage a news team with excellence and efficiency.

REPORTERS

These individuals should have experience in covering and reporting news events. Dynamic, resourceful, and self-driven. Candidates should also have excellent communication and interpersonal skills. They must be deft in conducting research and interviews. Should be flexible and able to think "out of the box".

Interested individuals are encouraged to e-mail their application letter, picture and comprehensive resumés to
quadratic@edsamail.com.ph.
Kindly indicate the position you are applying for on the subject of your e-mail.

SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Building 255 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
Tel. Nos. (047) 252-4270/4214/4124 • Fax No. (047) 252-4284

October 11, 2001

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The **SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY ("SBMA")**, through the Bids and Awards Committee ("BAC") invites duly registered Firms, Suppliers/Contractors to pre-qualify and bid for the following:

MARINE ATA RADAR FOR VESSEL TRAFFIC INFORMATION SYSTEM
ONE (1) UNIT PATROL BOAT
ONE (1) UNIT RESCUE BOAT
ONE (1) SET DIGITAL VIDEO EDITING MACHINE
SERVICES AND MATERIALS FOR ROCK ARMOURING AND IMPROVEMENT OF APPROACH FOUNDATION ON RUNWAY #7 AT SDIA, SBFZ

The following documents are necessary for the pre-qualification as a supplier/contractor for the above-mentioned public bidding:

1. Article of Incorporation
2. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) Registration
3. Certificate of Registration with the Department of Trade and Industry (if not Corporation)
4. Valid Mayor's Permit
5. VAT Registration
6. Audited Financial Statement for the last two (2) years (certified true copy in sealed envelope)
7. Presence of Exclusive/Authorized/Sole Distributorship Agreement with reputable firms in the industry, document duly notarized at the point of origin.
8. Company PROFILE
9. PCAB License (for Construction Company)
10. List of Product
11. List of Clients
12. Non-refundable Pre-qualification fee (P200.00)

Submission of the above pre-qualification documents is until **5:00 p.m. of October 19, 2001 (Friday)**, at the BAC Secretariat, PPMD Office, Room 201, Building 255, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

Firms qualified by the SBMA and dates for the Pre-Bid Conference and Submission/Opening of Bids shall be announced through Bid Bulletin.

The SBMA assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any firm for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of pre-qualification requirements. The decision of the SBMA on who are qualified to bid shall be final and binding.

ATTY. RIZAL V. KATALBAS JR.
Secretary, BAC

(PDI -- Oct. 12, 13 & 14, 2001)

HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES LOGISTICS CENTER
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Tel Nos: 911-6001 local 5434 • 913-1175
AFP Website: http://www.armedforces.mil.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The AFPLC Bids and Awards Committee will conduct a public bidding for the procurement of various Civil Disturbance Management (CDM) Equipment with an approved budget of P50M.

Eligibility and Bid Documents can be obtained at the Secretariat, AFPLC BAC from **October 22 to 26, 2001** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **P500.00.**

A pre-bid conference for the items mentioned above will be held on **October 30, 2001** at 10:00 a.m. at the Daza Park Pavilion, AFP Logistics Center, Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Deadline for the submission of the eligibility requirements and the bid envelopes is on **November 12, 2001** at 10:00 a.m. at Daza Park Pavilion, AFP Logistics Center, Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City followed by the Opening of Bids at 2:00 p.m.

The AFP Logistics Center reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid and to award the contract to the lowest calculated responsive bid as determined by the AFPLC Bids & Awards Committee.

(Sgd.) **COLONEL REYNALDO S. RAMIREZ (GSC) PAF**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Oct. 12 & 13, 2001)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka
PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN NG PAGSASAKA AT PANGINGISDA
(National Agricultural and Fishery Council)
Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon
Tel. Nos. 928-87-41 to 65 local 510

October 12, 2001

INVITATION TO BID

The National Agricultural and Fishery Council (NAFC) hereby invites all Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) certified/accredited soybean meal, feed peas and corn users to submit sealed bids for the sale of the following commodities under the FY 2001 PL 480 Title 1 Program (PL 480):

COMMODITY	VOLUME
Soybean meal	51,392.00 (± 2%)
Feed Peas	9,921.12 (± 2%)
Corn	209,996.00 (± 2%)

Tender documents can be secured from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) NAFC, Apacible Hall, Department of Agriculture Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City starting on **October 16, 2001.**

The pre-bid conference shall be held at the NAFC Maynila Conference Room on **October 17, 2001** at 10:00 a.m.

Fully completed sealed bids should be submitted not later than 2:00 p.m. on **October 19, 2001**. Bids received after the scheduled time will not be accepted/entertained and will be returned unopened. Opening of bids shall be at 2:30 p.m. on the same day.

For details, please contact Ingle Bautista or Peachy Agustin at Tel. Nos. 929-8234 or 928-1966.

By Authority of the NAFC Chairman-Coordinator

(Sgd.) **RICARDO A. VILLO, JR.**
Executive Director

(PDI--Oct. 13 & 14, 2001)

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www.jobmarketonline.com

PUYAT SPORTS

Be a part of the country's leading Bowling and Billiards Company.

MARKETING MANAGER (1)

With experience in sales and marketing as supervisor, Asst. Manager or Department Head (in a hotel, country club or resort an advantage); graduate of HRM or Marketing from a reputable school; Male or Female, not over 45 years old.

LEGAL OFFICER (1)

Law graduate from a reputable school; has excellent written communication skill; experience in drafting lease contracts / similar agreements.

F & B MANAGER (1)

With attractive background in the area of F & B Management, preferably with emphasis on central kitchen operation; graduate of HRM or Management from a reputable school; Male or Female, 28 to 40 years old.

OPERATIONS COMPTROLLER (1)

CPA from a reputable school; has excellent communication skills; with extensive experience in auditing; Male or Female, 25 to 40 years old.

MAINTENANCE ENGINEER / MANAGER (1)

With minimum of 5 years work experience as Maintenance Supervisor / Manager (Preferably in a mall, hotel or commercial center); graduate of Engineering (licensed an advantage); Male, 30 to 45 years old.

AMUSEMENT ARCADE MANAGER (1)

With experience in managing or supervising a video / arcade amusement center; knowledgeable in various new video games cartridges and computer network games; Male, 25 to 38 years old.

WAREHOUSE HEAD / PROPERTY CUSTODIAN (2)

Minimum of 5 years experience in warehouse management and supervision; Male 30 to 45 years old; graduate of Engineering or any business course; Possessing high level of integrity.

Please send application letter with detailed resumé and 2x2 picture addressed to the HRD Manager at P.O. Box 3407 Makati City.

WANTED

FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

ENGINEERS (ME, EE) ELECTRONIC TECHNICIANS

By a Leading Petroleum Equipment Distributor For its local expansion program:

Minimum Qualifications:

1. Recent course graduate
2. Above average academic grades
3. One year experience preferred but not necessary
4. Willing to undergo training

Send BIO-DATA and PHOTO to:

P.O. Box 1348, MCC, Makati
Tel. No. 844-4230

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. TRANSCO 2001-01

Bidding Date: October 29, 2001 - 2:00 PM
Pre-Bid Conference: October 22, 2001 - 2:00 PM
(Peñafrancia Room, NPC Solarium)

TWENTY (20) UNITS - PROTECTION SIGNALING EQUIPMENT (PSE) COMPLETE WITH ALL NECESSARY INTERFACE CABLES

PROGRAMMABLE TELEPROTECTION UNIT FOR TRANSMITTING/RECEIVING MINIMUM OF FOUR (4) TRIPPING SIGNALS EQUIPPED TO COMMUNICATE OVER AUDIO (AF) COMMUNICATION CHANNELS (E.G., VIA CABLE, SPEECH CHANNELS THROUGH MUX, RADIO, PLC)

SOURCE OF FUNDING: FINANCED BY THE GOVERNMENT
APPROVED BUDGET FOR CONTRACT TO BE BID: P10,000,000.00

The following manufacturers/suppliers/distributors, whether 100% local or at most 40% foreign-owned are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above using Single Stage Variation (SSV/Three (3) Envelope System) to be opened publicly at the Peñafrancia Rm., NPC Solarium, Ground Floor, Bldg. I, NPC-OBC, Quezon Ave. cor. Agham Rd., Diliman, Quezon City.

a. Duly licensed individuals/Sole proprietorship
b. Partnership or corporations
c. Manufacturers/suppliers/distributors forming into a joint venture
d. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).

Only Bids within the Approved Budget for Contract to be bid will be accepted.

Bidding documents are available on **October 12 to 19, 2001** upon payment of P100.00 which is non-refundable. Issuance of bidding documents shall be from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and can be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Materials Management Division—TRANSCO, from Mr. Winnie Gatus at Ground Floor, Building 2, National Power Corporation, BIR Road cor. Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines, Tel. Nos. 922-8432/921-3479, Fax Nos. 921-3369/921-2514.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DIVISION—TRANSCO
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI -- Oct. 13 & 15, 2001)

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO THE 2001 NPC-NLR SUPPLIERS' DAY

The National Power Corporation, North Luzon Transco & GenCo 2 wish to invite interested parties to attend the Suppliers' Day.

PARTICIPANTS : Suppliers
Janitorial Services
Security Services
Brokers & Forwarders
DATE : November 7, 2001
TIME : 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM
VENUE : Skyrise Hotel, Apartelle and Restaurant
#18 Dominican Road, (near Lourdes Grotto), Baguio City

This occasion aims to focus on the briefing of Executive Order No. 262, "Implementing Rules and Regulations Governing the Procurement of Goods, Supplies and Services by the National Government." Succeeding biddings shall be in accordance with the provisions of EO No. 262.

For registration/particulars, you are advised to visit personally the Materials Management Section Office, 2nd Floor Basement, Plaza Natalia Bldg., #51 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City from October 15 to November 6, 2001.

For additional information/particulars, please contact Ms. Susan C. Rodriguez or Mr. Rolly E. Lopez at Tel. (074) 445-4546.

(Sgd.) **J.R. ARELLANO**
Chairman - BAC
NL-TransCo

(Sgd.) **J.C. HIDALGO**
Chairman - BAC
GenCo 2

(PDI--Oct. 13 & 14, 2001)

Rustan Commercial Corporation

urgently needs

SALES ASSOCIATES
(FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON)

- Female, between 21-28 years old
- At least 2 years of college education
- At least 5'2" in height with clear complexion
- Must have initiative, ability and sustained interest in selling
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Good in oral communication

Interested applicants may apply personally to:

HUMAN RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
RUSTAN COMMERCIAL CORPORATION
G/F, Rustan Bldg., EDSA,
Mandaluyong City
(near Ortigas fly-over,
across Corinthian Garden in EDSA)

Applicants may be accommodated from Monday to Thursday between 8-12 nn and on Saturday, **Oct. 20 & 27** from 9-3 p.m. tel. nos. 727-0226 loc. 2210/2208 look for Lanie/Beth/Anna

---

FATIMA Medical Center

Is Now Accepting Applicants for:

- **RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM in the:**
  DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
  DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS
  DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE
  DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS and GYNECOLOGY
  DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY MEDICINE and COMMUNITY HEALTH
- **ACCOUNTING CLERKS**
  BS Accountancy; Male/Female not more than 28 yrs. old
  Preferably with experience in a hospital setting (but not necessary)
  Willing to work on a shifting schedule
- **SECRETARY**
  College Graduate of any Business Course
  Female not more than 28 yrs. old with computer skills
  Preferably with experience in a school setting (but not necessary)

Interested parties may submit their letter of application, resume and other professional and academic credentials to :

HRD Officer, HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Fatima Medical Science Foundation, Inc.
2nd Floor, Fatima Medical Center
120 MacArthur Highway, Marulas, Valenzuela City 1441

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
SLRC-2001-11A

The Southern Luzon Regional Center (SLRC), NPC wishes to invite interested parties to prequalify and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 29, 2001; 2:00 PM	
A1	1 LOT	VEHICLE SPARE PARTS (3ADM01-181/179)	3ADM01-
A2	1 LOT	VARIOUS SPARE PARTS FOR MITSUBISHI PAJERO	3ADM01-205
A3	1 LOT	RING PLASTIC, COVER, CLIP BINDER	3ADM01-182
A4	1 LOT	FAX MACHINE, PRINT CARTRIDGE	3ADM01-183
A5	444 PCS	SAFETY SIGN STICKER	3PTG01-044
A5	1 LOT	DENTAL SUPPLIES (3ADM01-195/196)	3ADM01-
A6	250 PCS	WEDGE CONNECTORS, TERMINAL LUGS	3CSA01-186
A7	2 UNITS	SOUND METER, ACOUSTICAL CALIBRATOR	3BAC01-523
		DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 30, 2001; 2:00 PM	
B1	1 SET	BATTERY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TMC	3CSA01-182
B2	1 SET	REPAIR AND RECONDITION OF DENTAL CHAIR (OSADA SMILY MODEL)	3ADM01-191
B3	1 SET	STEEL GATE	3ADM01-178
B4	5 PCS	ALARM CONTROL & CONTROLLING DEVICE	3BAC01-132
B5	6 UNITS	PLAIN TROLLEY, LIFTING HOIST	3BAC01-312
B6	3 PCS	REGULATING VALVE, REGULATOR	3BAC01-622
B7	1 UNIT	FLOWMETER	3BAC01-607
B8	12 PCS	CURRENT/POTENTIAL TRANSFORMER	3LAG01-038
		DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 05, 2001; 2:00 PM	
C1	1 LOT	RELAY, SWITCH AND VALVE	3MAK01-295
C2	3 SETS	CHILLER	3MAK01-418
C3	2 PCS	COUPLING, FLEXIBLE DIAPHRAGM	3MAK01-385
C4	6 ROLLS	NON ASBESTOS NARROW WOVEN TAPE	3TIW01-014
C5	1 LOT	VARIOUS OFFICE SUPPLIES	3ADMG601-016
C6	1 LOT	JOB ORDER: PRINTING OF NPC FORMS	3ADMG601-017
		DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 06, 2001; 2:00 PM	
D1	1 LOT	AUXILLIARY CONTACT, RELAY, VARISTOR	3NCS01-050
D2	1 LOT	CONTACTOR, CIRCUIT BREAKER	3NCS01-048
D3	1 LOT	TERMINAL BLOCK, INTERFACE MODULE	3NCS01-045
D4	1 LOT	POWER SUPPLY UNIT, SWITCH, ETC.	3NCS01-040
D5	13 PCS	PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHER	3PTG01-042

Complete sets of bidding documents and other particulars may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fees of P25.00 and P50.00 per schedule for single and two-envelope, respectively starting **October 16, 2001.** No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bid documents for Schedules C1-C6 may be obtained from MMS GENCO 6.

Non-accredited suppliers can get prequalification papers and submit the same for evaluation not later than **October 24, 2001** before they are allowed to bid.

Only those prequalified shall be allowed to participate in the biddings. Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock PM on the dates specified above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

All bids regardless of price offer must be accompanied by Bidder's Bond in Cash or Certified Manager's/Cashier's Check, or a GSIS Surety Bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price.

The NPC-SLRC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the NPC-SLRC's action.

(Sgd.) **R. D. RAMAS**
MANAGER, ADMINISTRATION

(PDI -- Oct. 13, 2001)

Napocor wants to rebid insurance contract

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. is seeking a rebidding of its reinsurance contract on Oct. 26.

Persons familiar with the matter said Napocor asked a committee handling the auction to set a new date to end a dispute between the state-run power firm and the Government Service Insurance System.

An attempt to bid out a contract to reinsure over $6.5 billion worth of assets owned by Napocor on Sept. 27 failed after the GSIS withdrew from a joint committee handling the auction.

Napocor pushed through with the auction without the GSIS, but it failed to draw any offer.

Napocor wanted a direct hand in the auction, but the GSIS insisted on keeping the choice as its sole prerogative.

To resolve the impasse, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued a memorandum creating a joint bidding committee and allowed Napocor to participate in choosing its reinsurers.

The committee scheduled an auction on Sept. 27, but the GSIS withdrew from the committee days before this date.

The GSIS was reported to have withdrawn from the committee after Napocor excluded from the list of prequalified bidders one of the reinsurance brokers recommended by the GSIS.

The bidding committee had prequalified Heath Lambert, Aon Energy, Marsh & McLennan Cos. Inc., Arthur J. Gallagher, Alexander Forbes Ltd. and Agnew Higgins Pickering.

The GSIS reportedly wanted to include in this list Jardine Lloyds Thompson Insurance Brokers Inc., and a deadlock ensued when Napocor disagreed.

On Thursday, GSIS vice president Fernando Campa challenged Napocor to go to court to seek legal remedies to its complaints against the GSIS.

Campa issued the statement after Napocor claimed that it had some unpaid insurance claims with the GSIS and that GSIS had been allegedly padding its premiums.

"Go to court," Campana told Napocor president Jesus Alcordo in a press statement.

"Napocor should seek legal remedies on its complaints rather than pursuing cases before the bar of public opinion," Campana said.

"Let us not fight this before the press because it embarrasses the President," he said, citing the well-publicized Napocor's insurance claims.

Campana expressed doubts about whether Alcordo could substantiate his charges that the GSIS had been remiss in paying the power firm's insurance claims.

He said not a single collection suit had been filed by Napocor against the GSIS.

"This only means that there is no basis to sue," he said.

The GSIS official also urged Alcordo to respond to earlier call of GSIS for Napocor to substantiate charges of alleged premium padding over the past five years.

DOT seeks zero-tariff on tourism equipment

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism has asked the Tariff Commission to provide duty exemptions to 43 product categories, including refrigerators, air conditioners and passenger vans, to help ease the cost of building tourism facilities in the country.

The tourism department's petition, however, is expected to meet stiff opposition from local manufacturers that produce these goods that have duties ranging from 3 to 20 percent.

The Tariff Commission has already requested affected industry groups, including members of the Federation of Philippine Industries, to submit their position on the proposed zero duty on tourism-related products.

Tourism officials claim that these products are capital equipment and parts used by tourism-oriented enterprises in their operations.

Among the products that the DOT wants to have zero duties are refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners, steel tanks, safety deposit boxes, steam boilers, pumps, bakery ovens, water heaters, purifiers, harvesting and milling machines, grinding and crushing machines;

Washing, drying and ironing machines, welding and cutting appliances, construction equipment, passenger and utility vehicles, cruise ships, motor boats and water sport equipment, golf and tennis equipment, and transformers, converters and circuit breakers.

These products are already being made by local and multinational corporations in sufficient quantity and comparable quality with imported brands.

The Board of Investments has discontinued duty-free exemptions on capital equipment in 1997, and only export-oriented firms located within registered economic zones are eligible for duty-free imports.

SEC approves Citystate Savings plan to sell P112M worth of shares

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the application of Citystate Savings Bank Inc. controlled by businessman Antonio Cabangon Chua to undertake an initial public offering to raise as much as P112 million.

According to SEC documents, the thrift bank has an authorized capital stock of P1 billion consisting of 100 million shares, of which 33 million are outstanding.

The shares have a par value of P10 each.

The company aims to list on the secondary board of the Philippines Stock Exchange a total of 11.1 million primary shares and offer them for sale to the public at a price ranging from P10.25 to P11.55 each.

Citystate Savings said it would use as much as P94 million of the proceeds for investments in bonds and lending operations, P8 million for expansion of branch network and P5 million each for information technology expenditures and investments in allied and non-allied undertaking.

SEC records, however, showed that Citystate Savings Bank posted a net loss of P3.434 million in the first six months of the year.

Last year it posted a net profit of P1.76 million, or a turnaround from a net loss of P6.9 million posted in 1999.

Moreover, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has found that Citystate Savings Bank has violated its rules on directors, officers, shareholders and related interests.

DOF warns of ₱1-M 'Camacho scam'

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance yesterday warned the public against falling for a "GMA raffle" scam using the names of President Macapagal-Arroyo and Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

Finance officials asked the public to watch out for con artists calling up and luring unsuspecting individuals with an offer of P1 million.

These people, according to the finance department, would call up their intended victims to inform them that they had won P1 million, but that they would have to first deposit P40,000 in an account held by a provincial bank as a form of tax payment.

To reinforce their scam, they would ask their intended victims to dial a mobile phone number purportedly owned by Camacho.

A person posing as the finance secretary would answer the call and try to convince the intended victim that the entire arrangement was legitimate.

Casecnan multipurpose plant to boost palay production

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PANTABANGAN, Nueva Ecija—The $650-million Casecnan multipurpose irrigation and power project was inaugurated here yesterday amid promises of increased palay production and the 'energization' of hundreds of thousands of households.

The project, done under the government's build-operate-transfer scheme, is geared toward stabilizing the supply of water for the irrigation requirements of some 102,000 hectares of existing farmlands and 35,000 ha of new farms.

David Baldwin, president of CalEnergy International, said this was expected to boost the country's yearly rice production by 465,000 tons.

CalEnergy's affiliate, CE Casecnan Water and Energy Co., is the project's developer.

"This project is the largest of its kind in the Philippines and probably, in the Asia-Pacific region," Baldwin said during the inauguration rites.

He explained that the project diverts water from the Casecnan and Taan rivers in Nueva Vizcaya to the Pantabangan dam in Nueva Ecija.

The water is transported through a 26-kilometer-long, 6-meter-wide tunnel through the Caraballo mountains.

Baldwin further explained that two 75-megawatt power generators would harness the water passing through the tunnel.

Aside from that, the water that will fill up the Pantabangan dam will make possible the full utilization of the 100-mw Pantabangan hydropower plant and the nearby 12-mw Masiway plant.

"The power component of the Casecnan project will contribute 603 gigawatts to National Power Corp.'s Luzon grid," Baldwin added.

This, he said, would benefit around 350,000 homes.

The facilities will be turned over to the National Irrigation Administration in 2021 and is expected to continue operating for at least 30 more years.

"If maintained properly, the project can continue providing water and power for more than 100 years," Baldwin said.

CalEnergy is also operating three geothermal plants in Leyte.

ePLDT plans new Internet data center

By Abigail L. Ho

ePLDT, the Internet arm of telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., said it had enough bandwidth and facilities to support plans to put up another Internet data center in the future.

Apart from expanding its call center business in the country, ePLDT is also mulling over building another Internet data center as inquiries poured in after the World Trade Center tragedy last month.

"At the moment, we have three sites that are actually on standby, depending on the take up or demand. Certainly this particular business has been quite in demand after the (United States) tragedy. We're getting a lot of inquiries," ePLDT managing director Ariel Roda told reporters on Tuesday.

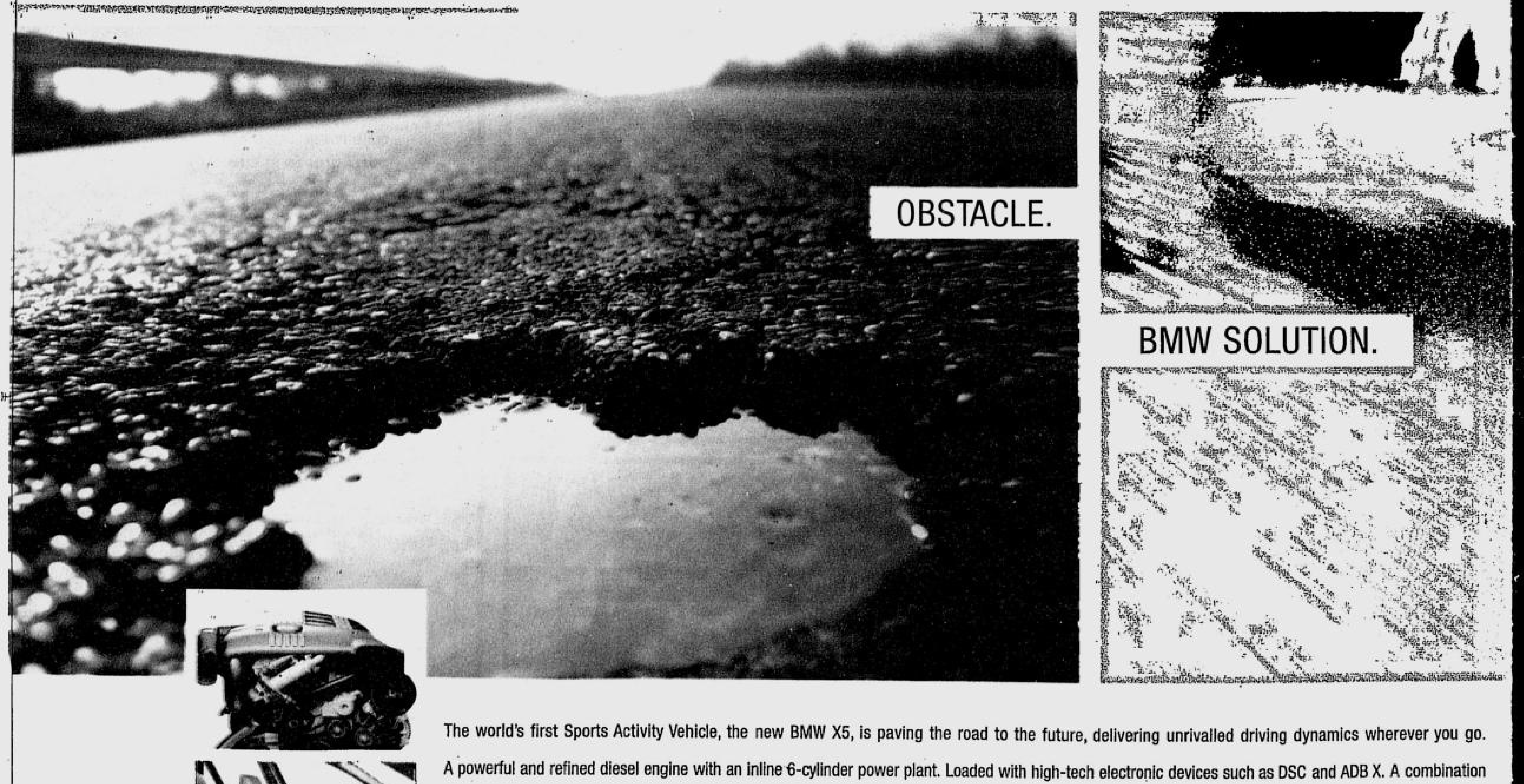
EPLDT's IDC, Vitro, provides colocation for a company's mission critical enterprise, Intranet and Internet applications with high bandwidth connectivity, security and power.

This means it offers backup or archiving services that can result in business continuity and recovery in the event of an unexpected tragedy that may disrupt a company's business processes.

Roda said a few thousand leased lines went down with the World Trade Center on Sept. 11. Because of this, a lot of companies are eyeing Asia as a back-up site, not wanting to keep everything in the United States.

He said, however, that ePLDT had not had formal discussions with any potential clients. So far, what the group has been getting are just inquiries.

THE DYNAMIC ALL-ROAD FASCINATION.



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Asian trade in a slump, inflation subdued

SINGAPORE—A sustained slump in Asian exports because of a rapid slowdown in the global economy will eat into trade surpluses across the region with little relief in sight for next year, according to a Reuters poll of analysts.

The overall shrinkage in current account surpluses would be cushioned in part by an almost equally savage slide in imports, though that was cold comfort for policymakers since it implied a substantial slowing in domestic demand.

If there is a saving grace for depressed demand and excess capacity, it is that it will tend to keep inflation bottled up in the region, allowing central banks to maintain accommodative monetary policies.

The region's reliance on high-tech exports to the United States is proving an Achilles heel even before the tragic events of Sept. 11, but the added blow to consumer confidence has made the future even murkier.

"Clearly we expect the Asian export rebound to be delayed," said Bill Belchere, managing director of Asian Economics and Fixed Income Strategy at Merrill Lynch in Singapore.

"US imports are not expected to reach 2000 levels until early 2003," he said, pointing to a tough year ahead for the region's exporters.

Particularly vulnerable to the US slowdown were Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia, while at the other end of the scale the relatively closed economies of India and China should suffer less.

Taiwan was a stranger case. While exports are, and will continue, to fall sharply, imports are seen dropping even more, leading analysts actually to revise up their forecasts for the country's trade surplus this year.

In that this reflects slumping demand and investment, it is hardly a promising sign for domestic growth, though it should go some way to support the exchange rate.

An omen of things to come was provided by the trade report for September, released this week, which showed exports dived 42 percent on the year while imports sank 40 percent.

Ominously, it was not just trade with the United States that slowed, though that was down a massive 46 percent. Exports to Japan declined even more at 50 percent, while those to Hong Kong dropped 36 percent and to the Asean area by 45 percent.

This illustrates one downside of globalization in that initial shocks in one country feed through to domestic demand in others, breeding second and third round effects in a vicious cycle.

One side effect of all this was to put downward pressure on inflation, with analysts expecting declines in consumer prices in most countries across the region.

"Inflation is well capped because of sluggish domestic demand and a low interest rate environment. Basically, people are not spending," said Manokaran Mottain, an economist at SBB Securities. *Reuters*

China seen joining trade body on Dec. 10

HONG KONG—China is expected to officially become a full-fledged member of the World Trade Organization on Dec. 10 followed by Taiwan the next day, it was reported Friday.

WTO trade ministers will speed China's accession at a ministerial meeting to be held in Doha, capital of the Gulf state of Qatar, on Nov. 9 to 13, the South China Morning Post said, citing unidentified sources.

Sources said because no voting procedure was required, China aimed to secure the ministers' consensus on its membership—considered to be a virtual formality—on the first day of the five-day meeting in Doha.

The ratified terms will then be sent back to the WTO secretariat and, under WTO regulations, be lodged there for 30 days before membership becomes official, the paper said.

Sources said China's entry to the WTO would be followed by Taiwan's a day later.

Beijing reportedly wanted to join the WTO as quickly as possible because it was eager to take part in a possible new round of trade negotiations by members, likely to start at the end of the year if ministers agreed on the agenda in Doha.

In September, China and its major trading partners finally reached formal agreement on China's WTO entry after 15 years of negotiations. *AFP*

APEC
APEC
CHINA 2001

A MAN stands in front of logos of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, left, and Shanghai Apec 2001, right, in Shanghai. Though the war on terrorism may overshadow other issues, Apec leaders meeting in Shanghai next week will also be searching for ways to counter global economic malaise and push ahead with free trade.

AP

WTO road strewn with pitfalls

TOKYO—As trade ministers from 22 countries gather in Singapore this weekend ahead of the World Trade Organization ministerial round in Doha next month, the road before them is strewn with pitfalls from the implementation of previous pacts on the thorny issue of agriculture.

The ministers from industrialized and developing nations will spend two days going over a seven-page compromise document drawn up by Hong Kong's ambassador, Stuart Harbinson, chair of the WTO's ruling general council.

While other major conferences have been shelved following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States and the US-led counter-strikes against Afghanistan, the WTO has no intention of being put off course.

"There is no alteration to our plan," Canada's International Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew said during a stopover here on his way to Singapore.

"Clearly, now more than ever, the global economy needs the stimulus a new round of multilateral negotiations would provide," he said, repeating an argument heard several times since Sept. 11.

According to one senior European official, the Singapore talks should unlock a number of trade-offs and provide hope for successful talks in Doha. Everyone "is in a negotiating frame of mind, not an obstructive one," he said.

Harbinson's document, a relatively short and balanced paper, has generally been well received by negotiators.

"While this draft text is by no means perfect, it provides a sound basis for launching expanded negotiations at Doha," said Pettigrew.

"One clear virtue of this text is that it is 42 paragraphs long, compared with the 34-page text we had in Seattle."

Even before the failed Seattle round in December 1999, the interminable paragraphs and clauses in the draft document, because of disagreements over the wording, were a drawback to negotiations.

The failure to even agree on an agenda two years ago served as a lesson to prepare a document that looked for and did not prejudge a final result.

Despite his skillfulness, Harbison was not able to avoid the trap when drafting a proposal on agriculture, by far the most controversial issue.

The Europeans feel the reference to "phasing out" export subsidies goes way beyond what they will accept.

"We speak English well enough to understand that phasing out and elimination have the same meaning," would be the reaction of European trade commissioner Pascal Lamy, according to a European official. *AFP*

US economy gasps for air

NEW YORK—One month after the attacks on the United States, the country's economy is gasping for air under the weight of a quarter-million job cuts and is now almost certainly in a recession.

The economic impact of the Sept. 11 attacks, in which nearly 5,600 are feared dead, is still rippling through the economy. Consumer confidence suffered its worst drop since 1990 in September, and the corporate profit outlook is the bleakest in three decades.

"The basic problem is that the US economy was very poorly prepared for risk. People got used to a world virtually without financial risk and without security risk," said Jan Hatzius, economist at Goldman Sachs in New York. *Reuters*

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Ong Wei Bin

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 9, 2001
in Ayala Alabang at the age of 84.

His wife **Lim Sioc Hee**; children **Basil**, **Eugene** and **Hebe**; children-in-law **Catherine Tanco-Ong**, **Elizabeth Borlongan-Ong** and **Joseph Lim**; grandchildren **Alexandra, Mark Christian, Eileen, Erica** and **Elise**; and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Premier Chapel, Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Dr. A. Santos Avenue (formerly Sucat Road), Parañaque City.

A memorial Mass will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 14, 2001 at the Premier Chapel, Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels. Cremation service follows at 10:00 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to Bantay Kinabukasan, ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc. (Mother Ignacia Ave., Quezon City 1103) will be deeply appreciated.

In Loving Memory

30th Death Anniversary

Fiscal Marcos Valentin, Jr.

(U.P. Law Class of 1932, of Cavite City and Ermita, Manila)

Who passed away on October 13, 1971

In commemoration of his reunion with the Lord,
Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches:

October 12, 2001	
Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary *Manaoag, Pangasinan*	6:30 PM
October 13, 2001	
Nstra. Señora de Guia Parish *Ermita, Manila*	8:00 AM
Nstra. Señora dela Soledad de Porta Vaga *San Roque, Cavite City*	6:00 AM
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine *Broadway, New Manila, Q.C.*	7:00 AM
Immaculate Heart of Mary Baguio Cathedral *Baguio City*	7:00 AM
Santuario de San Jose *Greenhills, Mandaluyong*	7:15 AM
Basilica of the Immaculate Conception *Manila Cathedral, Intramuros*	7:30 AM
Sta. Cruz Parish Church *Sta. Cruz, Manila*	8:00 AM
Basilica of the Black Nazarene *Quiapo, Manila*	12:15 PM
Shrine of Our Lady of Correa (San Agustin) *Intramuros, Manila*	5:30 PM
Shrine of Jesus the Way, the Truth and the Life *Reclamation Area, Roxas Boulevard*	5:30 PM
Nstra. Señora de los Remedios *Malate, Manila*	6:00 PM
Shrine of St. Michael & the Archangels *J. P. Laurel, San Miguel, Manila*	6:00 PM
Basilica of San Sebastian *Plaza del Carmen, Quiapo*	6:00 PM

His loving wife **Luz**; children **Luis, Rosa** (†), **Josefina, Fe, Rodolfo** & **Roberto**; grandchildren and great-grandchildren request the pious readers to include **Marcos** in their prayers.

EDMUNDO ANTONIO "Tony" E. RAMIREZ

peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 12th day of October 2001 at the age of 55.

His bereaved wife **Cita**; his children **Ian** and **Bing, Mae, Cara, Anne Aimie, Ann Kris** and **Yungyung**; his grandchildren **Jakey** and **Gian**; his father **James, Sr.**, his mother **Angelina** (†); his siblings in U.S.: **James Jr., Jojo** (†), **Joselito, Maureen, Glenn, Michael, Janet, Diana, Arleen, Benjamin, Richard**; request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be on Tuesday, October 16, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

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ROSA BLANCA S. VALDERRAMA

August 26, 1915 — October 11, 2001

Her husband **MANUEL L. VALDERRAMA, SR.**; children **CECILLE** and **MANNY ALBIS**, **VER** and **TESSIE**, **NOLI** and **VICKY**, **ROSE** and **CHITO ROUX**, **ED** and **TESSIE**, **JOJI** and **RUTH**, **ROGER** and **ANGIE**; relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Claire Chapel of HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS, Dr. A. Santos Ave., Parañaque City.

Interment will be after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels on October 16, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Parañaque City.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

"Eternal rest, grant unto him O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him,
may he rest in peace."

OUR DEARLY BELOVED

ERNESTO VERGARA

OF WELLCON MOTOR SALES CORPORATION
QUEZON CITY

PEACEFULLY JOINED OUR LORD ON OCTOBER 10, 2001 AT THE AGE OF 43.

HIS LOVING PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, SISTERS, BROTHERS, NEPHEWS, NIECES, BROTHERS-IN-LAW, RELATIVES, EMPLOYEES AND FRIENDS REQUEST THE PIOUS READERS TO PRAY FOR THE ETERNAL REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

HIS REMAINS LIE IN STATE AT SUPERIOR CHAPEL, LA FUNERARIA PAZ, G. ARANETA AVENUE, QUEZON CITY.

INTERMENT WILL BE ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2001 AT THE EVER MEMORIAL PARK.

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

CASIMIRO SANTOS CALDERON

Former Mayor of La Paz, Tarlac; WWII Veteran

Peacefully joined his Creator on Thursday, October 11, 2001
at the age of 84.

His loving children **Gil** and **Luz**, **Aida** and **Noji Escalona**, **Lulu** and **Manny Emas**, **Hermie Calderon**; grandchildren **Des** and **Fidel**, **Mike**, **Mon**, **Apollo**, **Albert**, **Anna** and **Mergit**; great grandchildren **BJ**, **Li-Anne**, **Miro**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Calderon Ancestral Home, Caramutan, La Paz, Tarlac.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 20, 2001 at La Paz Cemetery after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Peace Parish, La Paz, Tarlac.

Our Dearly Beloved Mother

CONCEPCION MARASIGAN TAÑADA

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 11, 2001
at the age of 94.

Her loving children **Ex-Mayor Rely** and **Conchit**, **Nany** & **Lilia**, **Imelda** & **Roger**, **August** (†) & **Suedy**, **Aurora**, **Zenaida**, **Bertin** (†), **Mary Ann** & **Rene**, **Lulu** & **Opel**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Mt. Carmel Church, Holy Family Chapel, Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

Please omit flowers.

Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God make us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again.

2 Corinthians 5:4-5

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

More Euro firms joining agri trade show

More European firms are joining Agrilink 2001 and Foodlink 2001, which make up the country's biggest and most prestigious international food and agribusiness trade show that will be held at the World Trade Center, Metro Manila, from Oct. 18 to 20.

They will join the other foreign exhibitors from North America, Middle East, Asia, and Australia, according to the Foundation for Resource Linkage and Development (FRLD) and the Jaarbeurs Exhibition and Media, the event organizers.

Some of these European firms have established their offices in Manila. These include Schippers Philippines, Big Dutchman, and MIK Philippines, among others.

Schippers Philippines is an affiliate of Schippers Europe BV, which has over 35 years of experience in the supply of equipment to agricultural businesses throughout Europe. It has developed a comprehensive range of specialized agricultural equipment for artificial insemination.

Big Dutchman is Europe's market leader in pig and poultry housing and feeding systems—from simple, hand-operated to computer-controlled systems and turn-key projects—including cage, egg, and floor management facilities.

German-based MIK Philippines is the maker and distributor of MIK Flooring, the original plastic flooring for pigs. MIK's production plant in the Philippines has ISO 9002 standard of the German TUV Rheinland.

Compared with other plastic flooring, MIK has the highest quality raw material, making the product last for 20 years.

Other details can be obtained from the FRLD (838-4549, 838-4852; fax 838-4573; e-mail frld@info.com.ph).

Agrilink 2001 and Foodlink 2001 are supported by the Department of Agriculture, National Agriculture and Fisheries Council, and various food and agri-industry associations.

Agrilink will showcase world-class local and foreign firms involved in agricultural chemicals, animal and plant breeding, farm equipment and machinery, fertilizers, fish farming, horticulture, irrigation systems, postharvest and packaging facilities, seeds, transportation and communication, veterinary materials and services, and financial services.

On the other hand, Foodlink will feature companies involved in the production, manufacture or processing of dairy and baked products, beverages, cooling and storage facilities, food ingredients and additives, food packaging materials, fruits, meat products, process automation, seafood, storage and logistics, vegetables, waste water treatment, and consultancy, among others.

Complementing Agrilink and Foodlink will be the 1st International Postharvest Horticulture Conference slated at the Philippine International Convention Center and the World Trade Center from Oct. 17-19. The conference will have internationally renowned plenary speakers from the United States and Canada and around 300 local and foreign delegates.

SMART AMENDATORY AGREEMENT WITH PLDT

Telecom leaders Smart Communications Inc. and the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company have signed an agreement making way for new interconnection rates for calls made from PLDT landlines to Smart cellular phones. Under the landmark agreement, which was mediated by the National Telecommunications Commission, Smart and PLDT will amend the existing revenue-sharing arrangement for direct local and national calls by adopting a revised single charging scheme. This means that access charge from a landline to all cellular mobile telephone system (CMTS) operators will now be uniform. Interconnection agreements determine how much telephone operators charge for calls made to and from their systems. Lower interconnection charges, such as established in the said Smart-PLDT agreement, translate to lower telecommunications costs. Shown are lawyer Roger V. Quevedo, head of Smart's legal and carrier relations department; NTC commissioner Eliseo M. Rio Jr.; lawyer Ramon S. Santiago, PLDT vice president for interconnection services; and NTC deputy commissioner Armijanes S. Roa-Borje.

GAMING TOURNAMENT WINNERS

SKYinternet, SKYinternet Weboard and ZP Dee recently sponsored the first nationwide online gaming tournament called 'SKYinternet Counterstrike Combat'. Players from all over Metro Manila, Iloilo and Baguio converged at the Blue Skies Gaming and Entertainment Network in Quezon City for the final round and awarding of winners. The grand prize winners of P30,000 (at P6,000 per team member) were Carl Cruz, Joseph De Guzman, Arnold Guerrero, Jose Alberto Esguera and Fernando Lazo. Second prize winners of P15,000 (P3,000 per team member) were Say Young Cook, Carl Arevalo, Aris Carl, Gene Fontanilla and Billy Pantoja. Third prize winners of P10,000 (at P2,000 per team member) were Ronald Uy, Bernard Molina, Sammuelson Montoya, Christopher Ilagan and Raphael Pranga. Fourth prize winners of P5,000 (at P1,000 per team member) were Ian Lim, Dennis Arevalo, Timothy Ching, Reuel Uy, and Sherwin Celones. Shown are SKY executives posing with the winners. From last row are (from left) Caloy Campos (holding glass), marketing officer; Jo-anne Chua Veloso, product manager, Loudette Sordilla and Finnie Bonifacio, marketing specialists.

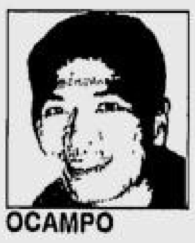
Seminar on entrepreneurship

THE CENTER for Human Research and Development Foundation Inc. is holding a seminar-workshop on "Creative Entrepreneurship: Should You Start Your Own Business?" from Oct. 25 to 26, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Benitez Memorial Center, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City. Resource speaker is Rene Esteban, a seasoned, creative, entrepreneurial coach and business product development consultant to various government and private business organizations. For inquiries, call Beth Solquio, 927-9858 or 0919-2399464.

CAP peace symposium

ERMITA

BAJUNAID



OCAMPO

PATHS to national healing and reconciliation will be discussed at the 8th annual MacArthur Symposium on Peace, scheduled today, Oct. 13, 1 to 5 p.m. at the Gen. Kangleon Conference Center, CAP Tacloban building in Tacloban City. The annual symposium is sponsored by the CAP Family of Companies to mark the historic Leyte Gulf Landings that led to the liberation of the island from foreign invaders and to honor the memory of those who fought and died for peace. A distinguished battery of speakers will discuss the topic from various perspectives: Secretary Eduardo R. Ermita, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process; professor Moner M. Bajunaid, secretary general and CEO, Philippine Democratic Socialist Party; and Saturnino C. Ocampo, Bayan Muna Party List Representative.

Harry Potter mall tours

THE ALL-NEW Harry Potter Trading Card Game was officially launched in the country with a series of demonstration tours in various commercial centers and shopping malls. The mall tours aim to familiarize the players with the rules and mechanics of the Harry Potter trading card game, which was inspired by the novel "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," the first book in the best-selling series of J.K. Rowling. They are intended to test the skills and wizardry of the players through their knowledge of the exciting characters in the book, such as Harry Potter, Hermione, Granger and Ron Weasly, among others. The demo tours also feature exciting games and surprises about Harry Potter at the Harry Potter Center Stage, where a preview of the coming "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, The Movie" will also be held. The rest of the Harry Potter TCG mall tour schedule are as follows: Oct. 14, SM Southmall (Activity Center), Las Piñas City; Oct. 28, Festival Supermall (Carousel Area), Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City; Nov. 3, Glorietta 2 (Lower Level), Makati Commercial Center, Makati City; Nov. 4, SM North Edsa (Activity Center), Quezon City; Nov. 11, Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City; and Nov. 18, Robinsons Galleria, Mandaluyong City.

amazing THAILAND (WAT ARUN)

AYALA LIFE CONQUERS BANGKOK

103 top business partners of Ayala Life Assurance Inc. recently flew to Bangkok, Thailand as participants in the 6th Asia Pacific Life Insurance Congress (Aplic). The Congress convened more than 10,000 participants from 20 other countries and featured lectures on cutting-edge innovations and trends that affect the life insurance industry. Shown is the Ayala Life delegation headed by Ayala Life national sales director Joe Ferreria in front of the Wat Arun temple during their Thailand visit.

QC HIGH OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

The Quezon City High School Alumni Association recently held its alumni homecoming and recognized its Outstanding Alumni for 2001. Shown are the alumni awardees with their plaques of recognition (from left), Ramon Dizon (community service), Vilma Mascariñas-Resuma (education), Natalia M. L. Miñeque-Morales (political science), Esmeralda Gatus Saplala (government service) Comelec commissioner Florentino Tuason Jr. (law), Raul L. Perez (military). Not shown are Dr. Armando Sayao (medicine) and Editha P. Heberlein (nutrition).

E*TRADE SECURITIES CORPORATION
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ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice is hereby given that E*Trade Securities Corporation has temporarily ceased its trading operations in the Philippines on 25 September 2001. However, its office, which is located in the above address, will remain open until 15 October 2001.

E*TRADE SECURITIES CORPORATION

By:

(Sgd.) DAVID HERON
President

INQUIRER TRIVIA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Bone of disconnection

Q. Is there a bone in the human body that is not connected to another?

A. Yes. It's the hyoid, a U-shaped bone located at the base of the tongue between the mandible and the voice box. Its main function is to support the tongue and its muscle.

For the Record. The skull, spine and rib cage account for 80 percent of your body's 206 bones, and form the 'axial' skeleton. The rest are known as the 'appendicular' skeleton and include the shoulder, arms, hands, hips, legs, and feet. The skull has 28 bones, with 8 fused to cover the brain. The shoulder group includes the shovel-shaped scapula (Greek for 'dig') and the key-shaped clavicle (Latin for 'little keys'). The 24 ribs anchored in pairs to the spine protect the heart and lungs along with the thick breastbone. The lower half begins with the pelvis and ends with 26 bones in the ankles and feet.

Past Forward. This day in 1904: *The Interpretation of Dreams* by Austrian psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud was published. Here Freud analyzed many of his own dreams recorded in the 3-year period of his self-analysis, begun in 1897. This work expounds all the fundamental concepts underlying psychoanalytic technique and doctrine.

WORD WATCH

Lychnobite (lik nu bite) : one who works at night and sleeps in the day.

PDI – October 13, 2001

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Gov't urged to be ready for bioterrorism

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

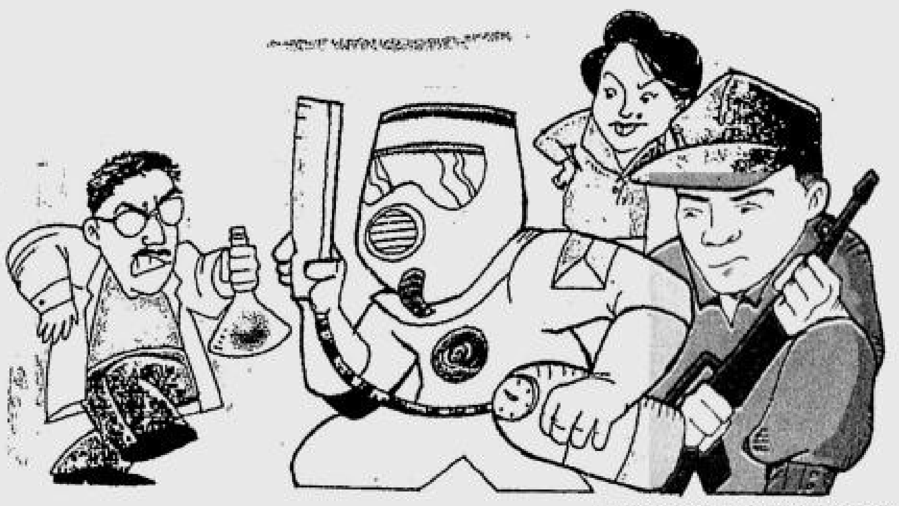

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

BIOCHEMICAL weapons are dubbed the "poor man's nuclear bomb," offering the same potential lethality of a nuclear device.

So the government should treat the poor man's arsenal like it was a "clear and present danger."

Filipino scientists are urging national leaders to put themselves out of their comfort zones and stop branding biological and chemical attacks as a "remote possibility."

And the best thing to do is to start educating the public in case of such attacks, they said.

The scientists are asking the government to "think like terrorists" so it could act proactively instead of reactively to situations. If a country says it is capable, or at least has addressed all possible catastrophe-causing events, chances are terrorists would have second thoughts about hatching weapons of mass destruction, they say.

One scientist commented that if he was working for the government, he would by now have set up teams and trained them to stock up on antidotes.

Collaboration between scientists and doctors in planning for possible scenarios is important. During biological and chemical warfare, the scientists said, addressing the treatment of survivors will just be the tip of the iceberg. The most important aspect is to prevent the spread of the diseases or of the chemical agents, they said. How many hospital beds would be needed? How many doctors would be able to work?

A number of controls that could be undertaken include the tagging of chemicals in the country, including those used in industries.

Transit points and ports should be guarded. The Philippines should have a registry of all labs throughout the country and keep the records—and the labs—safe and secure.

Commercial and private planes and ships plying in or near Philippine shores should be monitored as well. The land transportation offices should monitor vans and tankers going in and out of cities.

The government is also being asked to use weather and meteorological information to anticipate "ideal" conditions for dispersing biological and chemical agents because these work best in certain weather and wind conditions.

"We want to make sure that depositories of cell cultures are kept secure. The people in the laboratories who maintain bugs should have heightened security," said Biotechnological Conference of the Philippines' president, Dr. Benigno Pecson.

Even common appliances, such as air-conditioners, could become deadly instruments for terrorists. Cyanide or mustard gas can circulate in closed rooms using air-conditioners, he said.

Pecson said however that chemical or biological attacks would most likely be localized rather than massive.

"This is according to the literature we've gathered so far," he said.

"If you say it will not hit us, or we will die anyway, and you didn't do a preparedness plan, that would actually come true," said Philippine Nuclear Research Institute's molecular biologist Custer Deocaris.

Deocaris stressed that biosensors would be a perfect tool for molecular recognition of biowarfare agents.

"A surveillance system is very important. You can have air samplers and we can do real time polymerase chain reactions. Amplify DNA and then you have specific probes that will tell you this particular pathogen is in the air," he said.

Deocaris said there are already people using biosensors in the country. What the military can do, he said, is to tap scientists to collaborate with and share information.

Health Undersecretary Dr. Antonio Lopez said in a telephone interview that the health department is preparing for bioterrorist attacks.

"As far as identification of diseases is concerned, we (are prepared). There are surveillance, sentinel sites. We have surveillance of the infectious and communicable disease in place. In case somebody is infected with anthrax, it can be monitored. Subsequent advisories can be related," said Lopez.

Hypertension drug shows promise vs kidney disease, diabetes

BY CHARLES E. BUBAN

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

LATEST World Health Organization data show that between 120 and 140 million people suffer from diabetes mellitus worldwide and about 90 to 95 percent of these people suffer from Type 2 diabetes. This type of diabetes occurs almost entirely in adults and results from the body's inability to respond properly to the action of insulin produced by the pancreas (insulin helps the sugars obtained from the foods we eat get into the cells of the body which they use as energy).

It is anticipated that half of these Type 2 diabetes patients will develop kidney disease, especially if they have hypertension.

Diabetes is the most common cause of kidney failure, accounting for more than 40 percent of new cases, according to the same WHO data. Following closely is hypertension or otherwise known as high blood pressure as the next leading cause of kidney failure commonly called end-stage renal disease (ESRD).

Kidney failure is a serious condition in which the kidneys fail to rid the body of wastes. It is the final stage of a slow deterioration of the kidneys, a process known as nephropathy. People with kidney failure undergo either dialysis, which substitutes for some of the filtering functions of the kidneys, or transplantation to receive a healthy donor kidney.

It was no wonder that when hypertension drug Irbesartan was recently discovered to slow down the development of kidney diseases among patients with hypertension and Type 2 diabetes, doctors and patients alike celebrated.

Beneficial effects

Irbesartan shows beneficial effects in patients with hypertension and Type 2 diabetes in the early and late stages of kidney disease, according to a landmark clinical study. Called Program for Irbesartan Mortality and Morbidity Evaluations or Prime, the study presented recently at the media briefing held at the New World Hotel in Makati City.

The Prime study is divided into two: Irbesartan MicroAlbuminuria Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus in Hypertensive Patients (Irma II) aimed at patients with early stage of kidney disease and Irbesartan Diabetic Nephropathy Trial (IDNT) for those with late stage of kidney disease.

In Irma 2 trial, 590 patients aged 30-70 were studied and were assessed for the effects of Irbesartan compared to other proven hypertensive treatments in slowing the progression of diabetic renal disease or microalbuminuria (small amounts of protein albumin in urine that indicate kidney disease).

"Those who took Irbesartan daily at 300 mg showed a significant 70 percent relative risk reduction for the development of diabetic nephropathy while patients who took 150 mg had a 24 percent reduction compared to the placebo group," reports Dr. Froilan de Leon, chief of the Nephrology Section at the University of Santo Tomas Hospital who is also a board member of the Philippine Society of Nephrology.

IDNT study

The IDNT study on the other hand, assessed the effects of Irbesartan against the calcium channel blocker amlodipine and a control group of other proven antihypertensive treatments on the progression of kidney disease and number of deaths in patients with late stages of diabetic kidney disease.

In IDNT, Irbesartan was shown to reduce the risk of transplantation or dialysis by 20 percent compared to placebo and by 23 percent over amlodipine. Throughout the study, advanced kidney disease was significantly reduced in the Irbesartan group but not in the amlodipine or placebo groups.

"Even at this advanced stage, therapy with Irbesartan was particularly effective in postponing the time before life-threatening complications occurred. These benefits appear to be beyond just the blood pressure lowering as what the Prime results have shown," notes Dr. De Leon.

The IDNT study, led by Dr. Edmund Lewis, director of Nephrology at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago, included 1,715 men and women between the ages of 30 and 70 years with hypertension, Type 2 diabetes and nephropathy. Patients were randomized to receive Irbesartan 300 mg/day, amlodipine 10 mg/day or control and observed for an average of 2.6 years.

Welcome development

The Prime study was a welcome development for patients. The analysis of the combined morbidity and mortality rate for patients who are already in the final stages of either renal or cardiovascular disease showed a significant 16 percent risk reduction in favor of Irbesartan compared with both the amlodipine and control groups.

"While blood pressure lowering was comparable in all groups, Irbesartan demonstrated a significantly greater benefit in reducing important renal events. These results underscore a protective effect of Irbesartan on renal functions," explains Dr. de Leon.

Cardiovascular disease is the No.1 killer in the Philippines today where 1 out of 10 Filipinos aged 15 years and above has hypertension, according to the health department. On the other hand, there are 2.5 million Filipinos today who are diagnosed with diabetes. But according to Dr. De Leon such figure could still rise up to 5 million since more people attribute their symptoms of diabetes to something else.

The Prime program is supported by a grant from Sanofi-Synthelabo and Bristol-Myers Squibb. Irbesartan is marketed worldwide by Bristol-Myers Squibb and Sanofi-Synthelabo under the brand names Aprovel, Avapro and Karvea.

DOH, LGUs join hands on mom, child nutrition

IN AN UNPRECEDENTED bid to save mothers from unhealthy pregnancy, the Department of Health has tapped the local government units in selected areas around the country for the distribution of food supplements and the implementation of a nutrition program for that purpose.

This developed after a DOH study had determined that malnutrition was among the major causes of pregnancy-related deaths.

The DOH has identified three critical micronutrients—Vitamin A, iron and iodine—that mothers need to keep themselves and their babies healthy and help ensure safe delivery.

At least P68 million worth of these micronutrients have been allotted to selected LGUs nationwide for distribution to their constituents.

The staff members of the DOH and the LGUs also teach them how to avail themselves of those nutrients from inexpensive sources such as fruits and vegetables, which they can raise on their backyards.

Fortification

At the same time, the DOH is implementing Republic Act 8976 establishing the Philippine Food Fortification Program.

RA 8976 mandates the fortification of imported and locally processed foods with all the necessary nutrients at sufficient levels. Thus, food products with the DOH Sangkap Pinoy seal are guaranteed to have been properly fortified with the required nutrients, especially Vitamin A, iron and iodine.

Vitamin A makes mothers maintain clear eyesight and healthy teeth, bones, muscles, hair and skin. But the mother's normal supply of this vitamin is used up by the growing baby during her pregnancy or lactation. Extreme deficiency of that vitamin will affect both the mother and the baby, according to Health Undersecretary Antonio Lopez.

"The same is true with iron, from which deficiency some 44 percent of women suffer. This condition, called anemia, makes pregnant women weak and sickly, putting their pregnancy and delivery at risk," Lopez added.

To prevent that condition, pregnant women must have 30 milligrams of iron a day, while nursing and nonpregnant mothers need at least 15.

Iodine deficiency

Likewise necessary to keep mothers healthy is iodine, which promotes the normal production of thyroid hormones that control the rate of heartbeat, food digestion, use of energy, and other functions of the body.

"Iodine deficiency can therefore impair the production of those hormones and result in abnormal physiological functioning, hyperthyroidism or goiter, and cause permanent mental and physical damage, even death, to the baby. As such, women with goiter must see a doctor immediately," Health Undersecretary Alexander Padilla explained.

"Moreover, extreme lack of iodine can cause cretinism, a disorder among children characterized by mental retardation, stunted growth, speech impairment and deafness," Padilla added.

About a quarter of Filipino women suffer from iodine deficiency. This means that one-fourth of the total number of babies conceived face the risk of death or being born with mental or other physical defects.

Thus, nutritional support has become a strategic component of the Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Programs of the DOH.

Mass vaccination . . .

(From page B12)

to soldiers, hospital workers and police, but most would probably be held for distribution after an attack to stop further spread.

Scientists are seeking vaccines that could be produced rapidly and once given build up protection much more quickly than the standard shots now available.

Smallpox vaccine

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said last week the US government hopes to have 40 million fresh doses of smallpox vaccine by next summer, well ahead of the original deadline of 2004. Acambis, a British firm, will speed up its 20-year program to replenish the US supply. About 15 million doses of the old vaccine remain from the 1970s.

Smallpox was eradicated in 1977 and routine vaccinations ceased in 1980. However, the Russians produced tons of smallpox for their bioweapons program in the 1980s and some experts fear some of it may have escaped, perhaps to other countries that make biological weapons.

Many people alive today were vaccinated against smallpox, but the protection wears off. It has been estimated that only 10 percent to 20 percent still have immunity against smallpox.

Anthrax vaccine

The current anthrax vaccine is reserved for the military and experts seem unanimous that it is too cumbersome for civilian use.

It requires six shots over 18 months, then yearly boosters. Add to that the fact that the vaccine's only US maker, Bioport Corp., has not produced a vaccine since 1998 because it failed to meet Food and Drug Administration standards, the New York Times reported.

Several labs are doing government-financed research to find a better anthrax vaccine, which would eliminate the need for speedy antibiotics. One of them, Vaxin in Birmingham, Ala., is working on a genetically engineered version that could be given with a skin patch.

If it or another new anthrax vaccine works out, the thinking about large-scale vaccination could change.

"If we had a great vaccine in enough quantity with no side effects and we felt the threat was large and imminent, that would be a reasonable question for public health discussion," said Johns Hopkins' Dr. Luciana Borio. "We do not have that." *AP*

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Male Pattern Hair Loss (MPHL)
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Reference: 1. Whiting Da, Hows don FL. Androgenetic Alopecia: Color atlas of differential diagnosis of hair loss. Cedar Grove, NJ: Cranfield Publishing, 1996: 18-23

A meeting of minds in cardiology

BY RAFAEL R. CASTILLO, MD

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

MEDICAL FILES

LAST week, heart specialists of various nationalities enjoyed a meeting of minds in cardiology right here in our country.

The 13th Asia-Pacific Congress of Cardiology was successfully conducted from Oct. 3 to 6 at the Edsa Plaza Hotel. It was a big honor for the country to host a big gathering of heart specialists in the Asia-Pacific region. The foreign attendance was understandably reduced considering the prevailing global conflict. What was heartening though was that only a few of the more than 100 invited speakers backed out. Many big guns in cardiology fulfilled their commitment to come and share their expertise generously with other heart specialists from all over the region.

Gallant efforts

The congress organizing committee headed by Drs. Noe Babilonia and Egay Ortiz, who is also the current president of the Philippine Heart Association, deserves to be congratulated for their gallant effort to ensure the safety and success of the congress, against all odds. There were some moments when we thought pushing through with an international congress at a time like this might court danger and serve as a magnet for terrorist activities. I must admit I felt that way strongly, especially after having just arrived from New York where I and a few other doctors got stranded after the World Trade Center attack. Thank God though that no untoward incident happened during the four-day congress.

I must not fail to congratulate Dr. Raul Jara, who was responsible for bringing the congress to our country. Single-handedly, he campaigned for our country to be this year's host when the council of officers deliberated on the venue two years ago in Pakistan, at a time when the congress was also beset by a military coup in the host country. Professionally convincing whenever he makes a pitch, Dr. Jara won for us a unanimous bid to have the next congress in our country.

Another "hero" in the congress was Dr. Jorge Sison, chair of the scientific committee, who prepared an interesting scientific "menu" with relevant topics and hot issues discussed by renowned and respected opinion leaders in the field of cardiology.

Certainly a great news during the congress is that Dr. Babilonia is the new president-elect of the Asia-Pacific Society of Cardiology, a big honor which our country can be proud of. A good leader who envisions a world-class status for the Filipino heart specialist, Noe, I'm sure, will be able to live up to all expectations in addressing the cardiovascular problems in the whole region when his term comes.

Highlight

Last week's congress featured more than 100 scientific lectures, debates and interactive sessions, which enabled the participants to get an update on exciting developments in various cardiovascular topics. A main highlight of the congress was the Antonio M. Samia lecture that was delivered by our very own Dr. Bun Yok Dy. He discussed a new paradigm for heart attacks and unstable angina, both of which are characterized by severe chest pains and called as an acute coronary syndrome.

Dr. Dy presented a more clinically relevant way to classify such heart attacks based on their ECG presentation. This will help guide the physician on the appropriate medical therapy for the patient. Risk stratification was also discussed assisted by new blood tests or serum markers. Relatively new drugs such as low-molecular weight heparin, other blood thinners such as GP IIb/IIIa inhibitors, and more aggressive interventions such as dilating the clogged artery with a balloon-tipped heart catheter plus stent placement, have all been shown to improve the patient's chance of surviving an acute coronary syndrome.

Other speakers

Another pillar of Philippine cardiology, Prof. Conrado Dayrit, discussed the pathophysiology of aging and the aging heart. He discussed the role of heredity or genetic factors in influencing the metabolic processes in the heart and the progressive narrowing of the blood vessels called atherosclerosis. According to Dr. Dayrit, the aging heart may be the first or last to fail, according to one's genes. This also determines how a person is able to preserve a healthy internal milieu and fend off unfavorable external factors such as a bad diet or excessive stress.

Prof. Robert Roberts, an internationally renowned heart specialist and researcher, gave an interesting glimpse of the 21st century practice of cardiology with the use of molecular genetics. He discussed the human genome project, which aims to sequence all of the close to 100,000 genes that make up a human being. Genes for common cardiovascular diseases can be identified; so one can accurately predict even in a newborn what diseases he or she is likely to develop later in life. The necessary preventive measures can then be employed. This will also have implications on therapy by altering or inhibiting defective genes to modify the formation of new heart cells.

Dr. Ling Lieng His, from the National University Hospital in Singapore, discussed the Ominous presenting signs that would predispose a patient with mitral valve problems to sudden death. Patients with this problem is relatively more common in our country due to the prevalence of rheumatic heart disease, flail mitral leaflet and mitral valve prolapse with regurgitation. The presence of heart failure symptoms, irregular heartbeat called atrial fibrillation and other parameters determined by doing a heart ultrasound or echocardiogram can predict a future risk for sudden cardiac death. Dr. Ling recommends early mitral valve repair to prevent serious or even fatal complications.

Prof. Trefor Morgan, head of the department of physiology at the University of Melbourne in Australia, discussed the damage on vital organs of the body by high blood pressure. He noted that different patterns of complications exist in various countries. In the Western world and India, heart disease is a more common cause of death than stroke. In Japan, China and the Philippines, the reverse is true. Prof. Morgan presented convincing data that diet and lifestyle changes can prevent the increase in high blood pressure and its complications. He also emphasized that aggressive blood pressure lowering to achieve optimal levels should be aimed since intake of inadequate doses of anti-hypertensive drugs may not be sufficient to prevent the complications of an elevated blood pressure.

Dr. Asuncion Abella-Reloza, a past president of the Philippine Heart Association, presented practical guidelines in the diagnosis and management of Rheumatic fever and Rheumatic heart disease, which are still prevalent in third world and developing countries. Dr. Reloza lamented that although steep declines of this disease have been recorded in the western world, it still remains to be a major cause of disabling heart disease in the Asia-Pacific basin. She recommended prompt diagnosis and evaluation of the severity of the disease, as well as religious secondary prophylaxis with penicillin to prevent recurrences. These remain the best option to reduce the incidence of Rheumatic heart disease since Streptococcal vaccine has not yet been developed.

I was privileged to be invited to give a lecture on the anti-atherosclerotic effect of a particular class of drug for high blood pressure. Drugs like angiotensin receptor blockers and angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors may exert beneficial effects on the hypertensive patient apart from their blood pressure lowering effect. In a separate lecture, I also presented the scientific data, as objectively as I could, on the possible adverse effects of the coxibs family of drugs for arthritis, particularly rofecoxib.

The heart congress last week was most fruitful and informative. It afforded our local specialists and even the general practitioners a capsulized synthesis of important diagnostic and therapeutic strategies, which can help in ensuring a better outcome for patients with various cardiovascular problems. Thank God, no terrorist was interested in the topics we discussed.

(Dr. Castillo is a past president of the Philippine Heart Association/Philippine College of Cardiology. For comments or inquiries, e-mail raffymd@i-manila.com.ph.)

Eat your oats out

CHECK your cholesterol!

Cholesterol is a fat-like substance present in animal tissues, including human blood. While we need cholesterol to make hormones and break down the fats we eat, high levels of this substance can pose high health risks. Dietary cholesterol and saturated fats can team up to raise artery-clogging level of blood cholesterol that can increase serious health problems like heart disease and stroke.

It is very important for us to minimize our intake of saturated fats and cholesterol for our general health. Nutritionists recommend that intake of dietary cholesterol must be limited to 300 mg per day or less. Keeping our intake of total fats within the suggested levels is easy. If we choose to eat wisely, cholesterol is not likely to be a health problem.

Eating food, which are good sources of fiber, can keep the blood glucose from rising too fast. The American Diabetes Association recommends getting 20-35 grams of fiber every day. There are different sources of fiber—from fruits, vegetables, nut, legumes to oatmeal.

Oatmeal as source of fiber

Did you know that oatmeal is a rich source of fiber that has been scientifically proven to reduce cholesterol?

Just a cup of cooked oatmeal can give you 4 grams of total fiber. It helps maintain healthy blood sugar levels, thus reducing cholesterol. Studies have also showed that 3 grams of soluble fiber from oatmeal reduces the risk of heart attacks.

This important fact is a good reason for us to eat oatmeal every day. By eating your favorite oatmeal just like Quaker Oats, we keep ourselves from the dangers of cholesterol, thereby developing a healthy, problem-free lifestyle.

Learn more about how the quaker oats started through the Quaker families at the Portraits of the World. Located at the heart of Festival Mall in Alabang, the exhibit features the different customs and traditions around the world. It also showcases the celebration of Christmas in various parts of the globe. In here lies the exhibit on the Quaker families.

Plasmalite now in Manila

A NEW era in therapy for sun-damaged and wrinkled skin and even hair removal has emerged with the introduction of the Plasmalite FPL Intense Pulse Light—the latest developed technology from Sweden that uses light pulses to effect treatment.

Unlike current treatments like dermabrasion, chemical peeling, collagen injection and CO_2 laser skin resurfacing, Plasmalite FPL Intense Pulse Light offers a noninvasive and nonablative method of therapy.

"Because it uses only light pulses, nothing virtually touches the skin except for a sapphire crystal that is used for effective heat dispersal," explains Dr. Jose F. Oreta Jr. of the Oreta Medical Clinic, the exclusive distributor of Plasmalite FPL Intense Pulse Light in the Philippines.

Plasmalite works by using specially filtered light to raise the temperature of selected levels of skin, depending on the kind of treatment a customer wants, promoting their healing while the sapphire crystal allows for quick dissipation of the heat.

"What we are actually doing is accelerating the development of the natural chemicals used by the skin to rejuvenate and remanufacture itself," says Dr. Oreta.

"With this noninvasive and nonablative technique, there is virtually no downtime as the patient does not need any recovery period after the treatment. It is cost-effective as you can see immediate results," he adds.

Plasmalite uses a combination of special filters to target the melanin, hemoglobin and collagen and this light pulse is further guided by the cooling effect of the sapphire crystal.

Studies have shown that by selective heating of the dermal collagen layer, the fibroblast cells are stimulated to produce new collagen fibers that effectively flatten wrinkles. This is part of the rejuvenation function of the machine.

The father of modern graph theory

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

"MY field, graph theory, is expanding explosively, both in abstract theory and in applications to many fields. Being interested in both, I am currently exploring applications to knots, groups, combinatorial designs, computing, 2-complexes, kinematic chains in mechanical engineering, kinship and marriage networks and chemical bonds. Within graph theory, I am investigating sum and difference graphs, new domination invariants, forcing concepts and new games."

So announced Dr. Frank N. Harary, mathematician extraordinaire and considered to be the father of modern graph theory. Intrigued? Loosely defined, graph theory is an applied branch of mathematics which models real-life applications (such as traffic routes, queues, communication networks) in the form of graphs (such as trees, bipartite graphs, connected graphs, etc.). Now is not the time to discuss graph theory in detail, but interested readers can consult the chapter on Dr. Mari-Jo Ruiz, a graph theorist herself, in my book "Ten Outstanding Filipino Scientists" (Anvil, 2000).

36 disciplines

Suffice it to say that Dr. Harary's papers on graph theory have touched on 36 disciplines to date. Anthropology, applied mathematics, architecture, art, biology, business administration, chemistry, civil engineering, computer science, cybernetics, economics, education, electrical engineering, English, environmental studies, geography, geology, linguistics, management science, mathematics, mechanical engineering, medieval literature, music, operational research, organic chemistry, physical chemistry, physics, political science, psychology, quantitative social science, social and political science, sociology, statistics, system sciences, theoretical statistics and town planning.

Individually and with students, many of whom have become distinguished graph theorists themselves, Dr. Harary has published astounding 720-plus papers in journals. (Most scientists would consider themselves fortunate to have one refereed paper published per year!) He possesses what mathematicians like to call "Erdos Number 1," since he has written two papers with the remarkable Paul Erdos, the most prolific mathematician of our time. No wonder Dr. Harary holds the distinction of being the most published graph theorist in the world.

Doctorate degrees

He was born in New York on March 11, 1921. He received his B.A. in 1941 and M.A. in 1945, both from Brooklyn college. From 1943 to 1944, he studied theoretical physics at Princeton University and from 1945 to 1946, applied math in New York University. He was awarded a doctorate in mathematical logic at the University of California, Berkeley in 1948—and this was just his first doctorate. He has since been awarded five honorary doctorates: University of Aberdeen, Scotland in 1975 (mathematics), University of Lund, Sweden in 1978 (social sciences), University of Exeter, England in 1992 (computer science), University of Louisville, Kentucky in 1997 (mathematics), University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece in 1988 (economics and social sciences).

In 1955, at the University of Michigan, Dr. Harary was among the first to teach courses in combinatorial theory and graph theory. (Two of his former students, Jin Akiyama and D. Frank Hsu, have considerably influenced the work of graph theory done in the Philippines.) Since 1987, Dr. Harary has held the position of Distinguished Professor of Computer Science at New Mexico State University.

Published works

He founded both the Journal of Combinatorial Theory in 1966 and the Journal of Graph Theory in 1977. He has written eight books and edited 10 others. His 1969 book, Graph Theory, became the fifth most cited work in mathematical research literature during 1978 to 1979. His latest work, Graph Theory and Geography, is being published by Wiley as an electronic book and first appeared in April this year. He has delivered over 1,000 invited lectures at conferences and universities in 77 countries. In fact, he has given lectures in every state or province or university in the following countries: Australia (6 states), Canada (10 provinces), Denmark (8 universities), Israel (8 universities), New Zealand (6 universities), Norway (4 universities), Papua New Guinea (2 universities) and Scotland (4 universities). What's more, he has delivered lectures not only in English, but also in French, Italian and Spanish.

Actor, too

He has also played a curious—albeit hidden—role in the award-winning film "Good Will Hunting." The film displayed formulas Dr. Harary had published on the enumeration of trees, which were supposed to be fiendishly difficult. Of course, you know what happened—in the film, Will (Matt Damon) solved them effortlessly!

As a tribute to this great scholar, Graph Theory and Discrete Geometry, Manila 2001: A Conference in Honor of Frank Harary on his 80th Year, will be held at the Ateneo de Manila University from Oct. 15 to 17.

Next week we will discuss some of the speakers and topics in the conference. (A more detailed résumé of Dr. Harary can be found at www.graphtheory.com/resources.htm.)

It is gratifying to note that the three corporate sponsors of the conference—Fujitsu Philippines, Manulife Financial and Software Ventures International Corporation—have presidents, Felipe Manalang, Renato Vergel de Dios, and Gil Guanio, respectively, who were all math graduates of the Ateneo.

(Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D., is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She writes the column "Mind Games" every Wednesday for www.inq7.net and can be reached at blessbook@yahoo.com.)

Bone, joint decade action week starts tomorrow

THE PHILIPPINE Council for the Bone and Joint Decade marks its second year with the celebration of the Bone and Joint Decade Action Week from Oct. 14 to 20. This year's theme is "Buto at Kasukasuan ko, Mamahalin ko."

The action week will showcase different activities directed at lay education regarding bone and joint health as well as awareness of the different conditions that can affect bone and joints. The activities include mass aerobics, free clinics on bone and joint conditions and lay forums.

The Bone and Joint Decade Action Week kicks off tomorrow at the Quirino Grandstand, Rizal Park, with a Thanksgiving Mass at 6 a.m. Council chair Ester Penserga will formally open the celebration with Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit as guests of honor The weeklong celebration will be capped by a dinner fund drive on Oct. 20 at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

The activities of the Bone and joint Decade Council is supported by Merck Sharp & Dohme Philippines (MSD).

Queena wins AIDS award

QUEENA Lee-Chua who writes the weekly column "Eureka" for the Inquirer's Science/Health section won first prize in this year's AIDS Media Awards for Best News Feature in Print.

Chua's winning piece was her four-part series, "AIDS in RP," which appeared in her column.

INQUIRER opinion section columnist Rina Jimenez David also won first prize for the Best News Feature in Radio for hosting XYZ Radio's "Christmas with a Person Living with AIDS" and third prize for "HIV/AIDS: Isang Hamon sa Lipunan."

The AIDS Media Awards were given by the AIDS Society of the Philippines and the Ford Foundation.

Flu can be fatal.

Sudden onset of fever? Coughing? Chills? Weakness?
Muscle and joint pains?

You could have contacted the flu virus.

Flu is contagious. It cannot be treated with antibiotics.
Complications like bronchitis, pneumonia and ear infection can even arise.

For people 65 years and older, and those with heart ailment, diabetes, asthma or kidney disease, it can be fatal.

At the onset of flu, don't self-medicate.
Your life may be at risk. Only your doctor can administer the right anti-viral medicine.

CONSULT YOUR DOCTOR WITHIN 36 HOURS.
Remember, flu is a deadly virus.

A public service from

Roche

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

Anxiety over anthrax

BY CHARLES E. BUBAN

THESE rod-shaped bacteria have gotten renewed attention, and taken on a new importance, since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

The American Federal Bureau of Investigation believes the strain of anthrax that recently killed a tabloid photo editor in Florida and found in two of his co-worker's noses was man-made, suggesting criminal activity. But investigators have found no evidence linking the incident to a terrorist group.

Sun tabloid photo editor Robert Stevens in Florida was the first anthrax fatality in the States since 1976. Only 18 cases of inhalation anthrax in the United States have been documented in the 20th century. The most recent was in 1976 in California.

Anthrax can be found globally, according to the World Health Organization Guidelines for the Surveillance and Control of Anthrax in Humans and Animals. It is more common in agricultural regions where it occurs in animals. Certain regions of the world such as South and Central America, Southern and Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, and the Middle East report more anthrax cases in animals than other species.

The first man-made sample of the disease appeared in 1877, when German bacteriologist and physician Robert Koch grew the first anthrax bacillus in pure culture. The culture demonstrated its ability to form endospores and Koch was able to produce experimental anthrax by injecting it into animals.

Anthrax in humans

When anthrax affects humans, it is usually due to an occupational exposure to infected animals or their products. Workers who are exposed to dead animals and animal products from other countries where anthrax is more common may become infected with another bacterium called *bacillus anthracis* (also known as industrial anthrax).

THE DEADLY "bacillus anthracis" up close

AP

The occurrence of direct person-to-person spread of anthrax is extremely unlikely, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Communicability is not a concern in managing or visiting with patients who contract anthrax through inhalation," according to a CDC manual.

Anthrax infection can occur in three forms: cutaneous (skin), gastrointestinal and pulmonary.

Anthrax spores can live in the soil for many years.

Symptoms of the disease vary depending on how the disease was contracted, but symptoms usually occur within seven days, according to the CDC.

Cutaneous: Most anthrax infections (about 95 percent) occur when the bacterium enters a cut or abrasion on the skin, such as when handling contaminated wool, hide, leather or hair products (especially goat hair) of infected animals. Skin infection begins as a raised itchy bump that resembles an insect bite. Within 1-2 days it develops into a vesicle and then into a painless ulcer, usually 1-3 cm in diameter, with a characteristic black necrotic (dying) area in the center. Lymph glands in the adjacent area may swell. About 20 percent of untreated cases of cutaneous anthrax will result in death. Deaths are rare given appropriate antimicrobial therapy.

Gastrointestinal: This form of anthrax may follow the consumption of contaminated meat and is characterized by an acute inflammation of the intestinal tract. Initial signs of nausea, loss of appetite, vomiting, fever are followed by abdominal pain, vomiting of blood and severe diarrhea. Intestinal anthrax results in death in 25 to 60 percent of cases. No case of intestinal anthrax has ever been reported to the CDC.

Pulmonary: Inhalation anthrax is extremely rare, but also extremely lethal if not treated with antibiotics in the early stage. Anthrax is most effective as a weapon when converted into a powder, which can be inhaled. Symptoms of inhalation anthrax begin with a cough, but rapidly progress into severe breathing problems and shock. It can initially be confused with the flu.

Detecting anthrax

Anthrax is diagnosed by isolating *bacillus anthracis* from the blood, skin lesions or respiratory secretions or by measuring specific antibodies in the blood of persons with suspected cases. Doctors can prescribe effective antibiotics. Penicillin is the drug of choice but tetracycline may also be prescribed.

"But to be effective, treatment should be initiated early. If left untreated, the disease can be fatal," according to the CDC.

The anthrax bacterium normally has an incubation period of up to seven days but can take up to 60 days to develop. Without treatment, 90 percent of victims die within days.

Anthrax spores are dormant forms of the bacteria. Like seeds they only germinate in a fertile environment. If inhaled, larger spores lodge in the upper respiratory tract (nose, throat) where they are less dangerous.

But the much smaller spores, between 1 and 5 microns, can penetrate the alveoli, the tiny sacs in the lungs. Some of the spores are destroyed when the body's immune system responds, but others are carried to the lymph nodes in the chest where the spores germinate.

Within a day or up to 60 days, anthrax bacteria begin to multiply, infecting chest tissues. The bacteria produce toxins that enter the bloodstream. In the lungs, the toxin can cause hemorrhaging, fluid collection and tissue decay.

Protecting against anthrax

In countries where anthrax is common and vaccination levels of animal herds are low, people should avoid contact with livestock and animal products suspected of being infected. Avoid eating meat that has not been properly slaughtered and cooked.

Also, an anthrax vaccine has been licensed for use in humans in line with the WHO "Requirements for Anthrax Spore Vaccine." There are several manufacturers of the vaccine for the humans and the vaccine is reported to be 93 percent effective in protecting against anthrax. **(See related story.)**

The immunization consists of three subcutaneous injections given two weeks apart followed by three additional subcutaneous injections given at 6, 12 and 18 months. Annual booster injections of the vaccine are recommended.

Still, CDC experts say it remains very difficult to transform a deadly virus or bacterium into a weapon that can be effectively dispersed.

"A bomb carrying a biological agent could likely destroy the germ as it explodes. Dispersing the agents with aerosols is challenging because biomaterials are often wet and can clog sprayers," says the CDC report.

Anthrax

- Rod shaped, gram - positive
- The size of a speck of dust, it infects humans by touch, inhalation or through broken skin
- Human strain contracted by handling contaminated hair, flesh, blood of infected animals.
- Treatment : Antibiotics, including penicillin. Prevention by vaccination.

[illegible]

INHALATION

- Incubation period 1 - 6 days
- Causes pneumonia with hemmorhages and breakdown of blood vessels
- *Symptoms* Fever, fatigue, cough, chest pain. Terminal phase : shock and death within 24 - 36 hours

GASTROINTESTINAL

- Ingestion of insufficiently cooked or infected meat
- *Symptoms* Nausea, vomiting, fever and abdominal pain
- Mortality may exceed 50 %

CUTANEOUS

- Enters through breaks in skin
- 95 % of naturally occuring causes
- Up to 20 % fatality rate if untreated

SOURCE : WORLD HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Mass vaccination vs bioterror germs unlikely, say savants

BIOTERRORISTS? Germ attacks? If the threat is real, why not roll up our sleeves and get vaccinated?

Vaccine experts say the question has come up often since Sept.11 but many doubt that population-wide shots will be a practical defense anytime soon against the deliberate release of deadly microbes.

The possible health hazards of mass vaccination could easily outweigh the benefits, they say, especially considering that no one really knows the likelihood of such a catastrophe.

But beyond that are significant problems: No vaccines are available for civilian use except smallpox shots, which are in extremely short supply until at least next year; and the government's sole supplier of anthrax vaccine has failed to meet federal drug standards and isn't currently producing the vaccine.

Even before the attacks on New York and Washington, developing vaccines against the A-list of bioterrorist weapons was high on the research agenda at the National Institutes of Health and the Defense Department.

In the works are vaccines against virtually every potential bioterrorist germ. Some might be given ahead of time

MASS/p.B10

SONY

Sony Cybershot gets the whole family ready for Christmas!

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Print your own Christmas shirts and caps

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Send to friends and relatives anywhere!

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all about élan

[éla] flair, distinction, class

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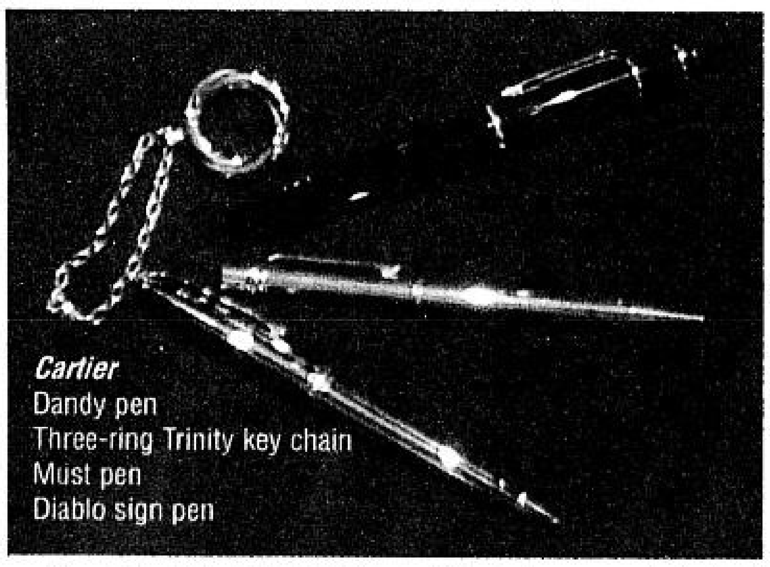
CONCHITINA SEVILLA-BERNARDO, Editor

JILL
girl on holiday.01
Rustan's
MAKATI • SHANGRI-LA PLAZA • ALABANG • CEBU

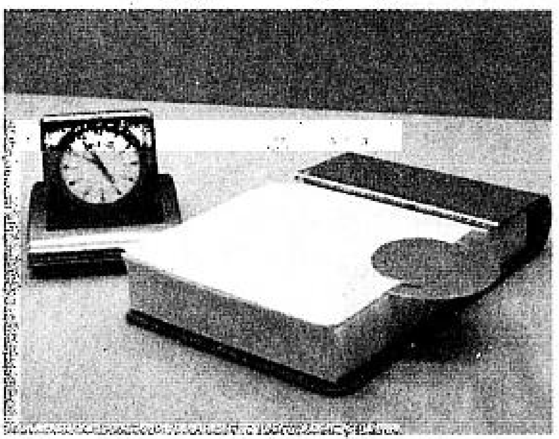
CORPORATE *Gift Ideas*

IT SEEMS such a daunting task to think of gifts for successful business executives. But with Christmas just around the corner, companies are once again busy picking out gifts for business partners and executives. Thankfully for us, Rustan's has come up with a collection of corporate gift ideas that every executive would appreciate. These gifts range from simple and elegant desk accessories, writing instruments to handy travel essentials and interesting gadgets for the urban dweller.

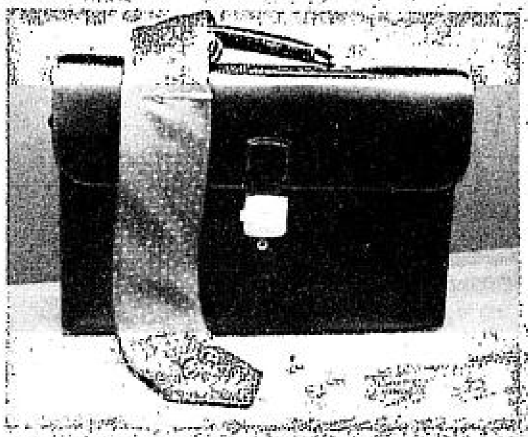
Mont Blanc
Nickolai Malachite
Stone Collection
Roller ballpen
Key ring
Tie bar



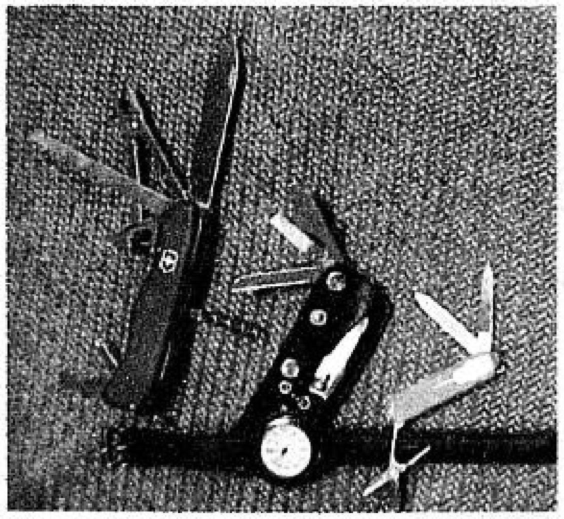
Cartier
Dandy pen
Three-ring Trinity key chain
Must pen
Diablo sign pen



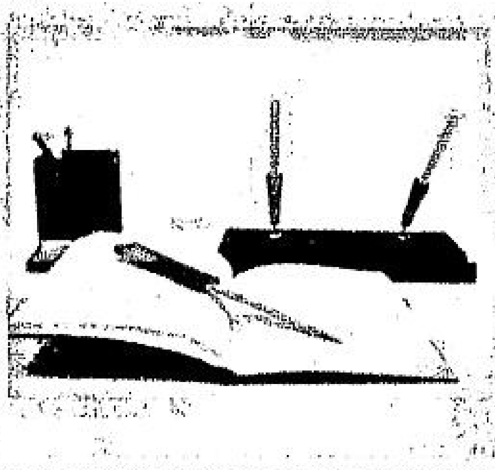
Tiffany & Company
Memo pad holder
Book marker
Stremerica travel clock



Alfred Dunhill
Single
compartment
briefcase
Matching tie clip
and cuff links
Silk tie

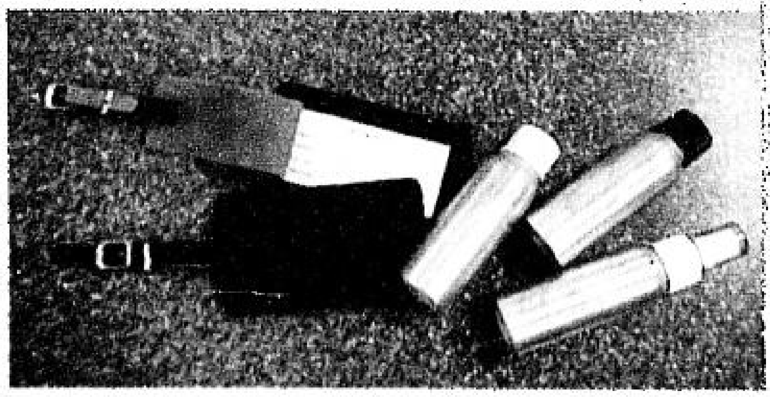


Victorinox
Swiss knife in two sizes
Hygiene essential
Watch



Pelleterie Artigionali Leather Desk Set
Utility/pen box
Pen holder
Letter opener
Leather bound
notebook from Italy

Assorted gadgets
Sewing kit
Pillbox
Calculator



Lewis n Clark Travel Accessories
Two-piece luggage tags
Aluminum bottle kit for bath and body care products

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

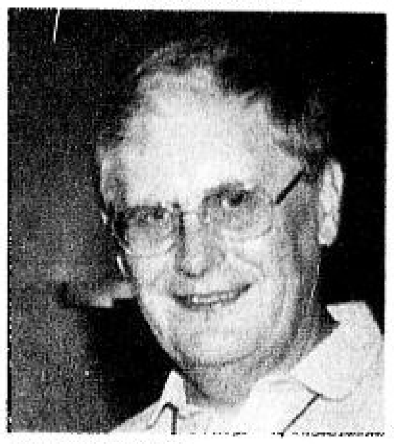
AMBASSADOR to the United States, Albert del Rosario

CONGRESSMAN Jesli Lapus

GIGI Zulueta

MARGARITA Delgado

MANUEL Pangilinan



JAN Nowakowski

An Evening With Corporate Presidents

FROM left are Joanne de Asis, Isidro Camacho, Secretary of Finance, Edward Delgado and Tony Garcia

IT was quite an outstanding evening. Held at the **Pacific Plaza Towers** function room in Fort Bonifacio, the country's foremost condominium dwelling, everyone was certain that it would be one of those nights when you know that you will meet many of the country's corporate giants in a marvelous setting.

They count themselves among the World's Presidents and belong to an organization that networks with other world presidents. They come together regularly and every evening spent with them is a great learning experience. Together with spouses in a forum where there is always an exhilarating exchange of experiences, mind-lifting question and answer portions, and camaraderie that builds lifelong friendships. Secretary of Trade and Industry **Mar Roxas**, himself a member of the groups said it simply, "I see the same faces and I call you all friends."

Other speakers were the Secretary of Finance **Lito Camacho**, who spoke of the state of the economy. He is leaving for Washington to get a first hand feel of how the United States will respond this crisis brought about by the most recent crisis. **Manny Pangilinan** Chair and CEO of the Metro Pacific Group of Companies, who shared his views on the possible directions the country's economy may take in the aftermath of the World Trade Center Twin Tower bombings. Ambassador to the United States **Albert del Rosario** gave his impressions on the foreign policy shifts that the Philippines will inevitably undertake in view of the current changes in the world's political climate. **James Go** gave practical and very pointed insights on managing a group of companies like the Robinson-Gokongwei Group of Companies, which he presently heads.

FROM left are Jeanette Zulueta, Minda Garcia and Chinit Rufino

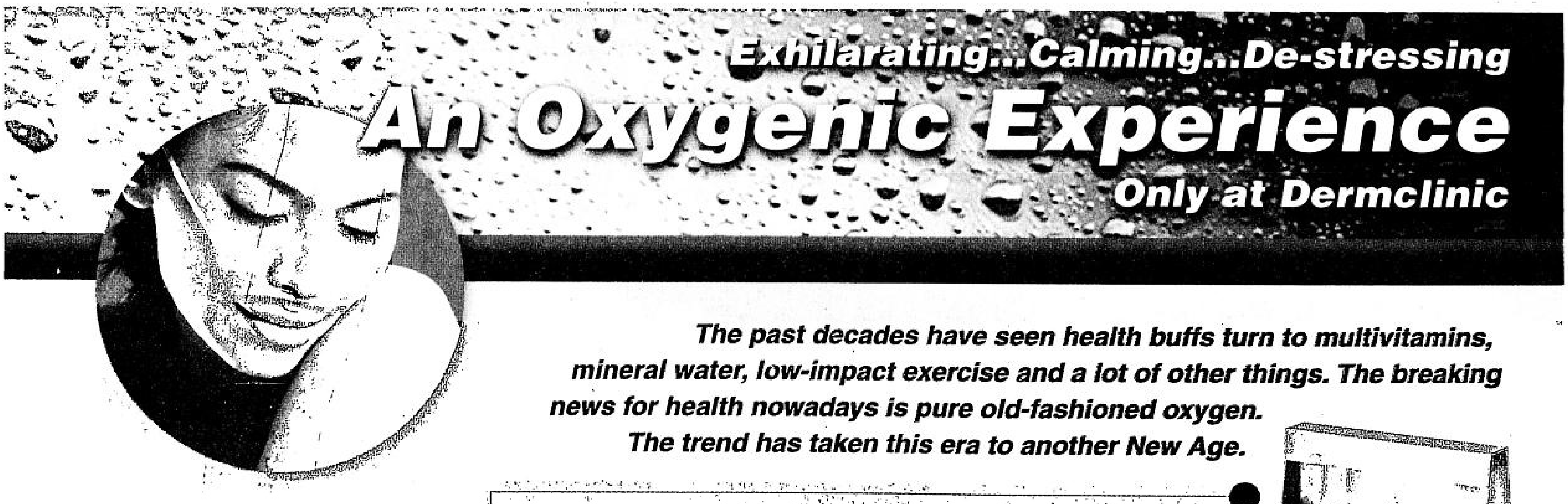
RIC Pascua and James Go

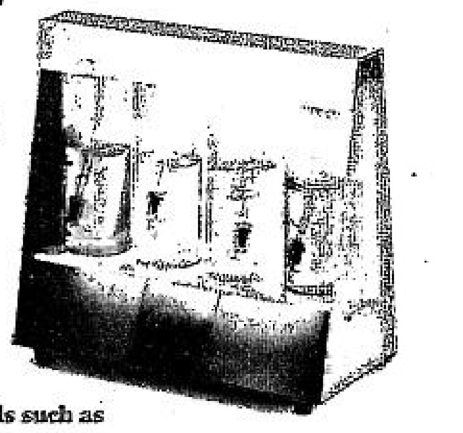
RAFFY Garcia

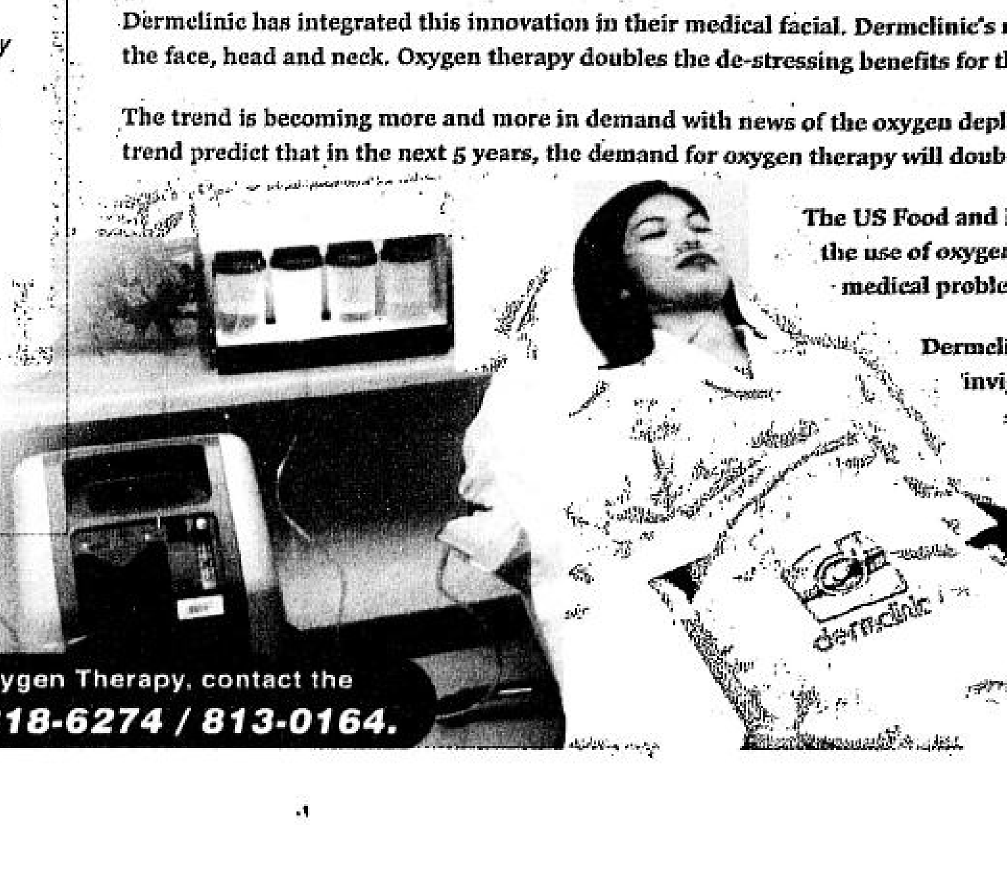
CHARLIE Rufino

SECRETARY of Finance Isidro Camacho, Kim Camacho and Robby Delgado

WATCHING the Ateneo-La Salle basketball games







Exhilarating...Calming...De-stressing
An Oxygenic Experience
Only at Dermclinic

The past decades have seen health buffs turn to multivitamins, mineral water, low-impact exercise and a lot of other things. The breaking news for health nowadays is pure old-fashioned oxygen. The trend has taken this era to another New Age.

Here are some testimonials to this new and exhilarating method for wellness:

"Energy. It clears up the sinuses. They feel like they've had a short nap."
-Sharon O'Connor, nurse
Oxygen Zone, Atlanta

"This is wild! I had a headache and now, it's gone."
- Marnie Wrenn, Seattle

"Five-minute, thrice-daily oxygen therapy sessions contributed to my losing 26 pounds in 45 days."
- Jim Adams, owner, Adams Oxygen Bar Broadway Market Seattle

"There is some scientific evidence to support the use of oxygen therapy for cluster headaches."
- National Headache Foundation (USA)

"...would help flush out toxins from the body cells making the person feel rejuvenated and energized."
- Dr. Kiran Patel,
Bangalore, India

Oxygen bars have been extremely popular in Europe, Canada and Japan for several years. Several US cities have taken a whiff of the trend with more than 100 thriving outlets offering this exciting experience. Mexico City and India have followed suit.

So what goes on in an oxygen bar or when you go for oxygen therapy?

Customers are hooked up to a plastic oxerator or "nose hose". The other end plugs into an infuser, a machine decked with four tubes holding colorful, aromatic liquids. These scent the oxygen with blends such as **"NIRVANA"** (Lavender, Balsam, Fir Needle) - soothing and relieving, **"CLARITY"** (Eucalyptus and Gingko) - purifying, invigorating and clarifying, **"SUBLIME"** (Lime Juice concentrate) - equalizing, refreshing and cheering, **"SYNERGY"** (Wintergreen, Spearmint, and Peppermint) - cheering, calming and relaxing, **"LEMON GRASS"** (Lemon Grass) - vitalizing and cleansing, **"REVITALIZE"** (Lemon, Rosemary, Peppermint and Sweet Basil) - uplifting strengthening and warming, **"ECLIPSE"** (Peppermint) - sensual, euphoric and exotic, **"TANGERINE DREAM"** (Citrus, Reticulate) - cheering, calming and relaxing. Customers inhale through the nose and exhale through the mouth to maximize the bar's oxygenating and aromatherapeutic effects. The therapy uses 97% pure oxygen.

Dermclinic has integrated this innovation in their medical facial. Dermclinic's medical facial itself soothes and relaxes tired muscles of the face, head and neck. Oxygen therapy doubles the de-stressing benefits for the patient.

The trend is becoming more and more in demand with news of the oxygen depletion in the atmosphere. Experts who have started the trend predict that in the next 5 years, the demand for oxygen therapy will double the rise of the bottled water industry.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has given its approval to the use of oxygen therapy for migraines and headaches, among other medical problems.

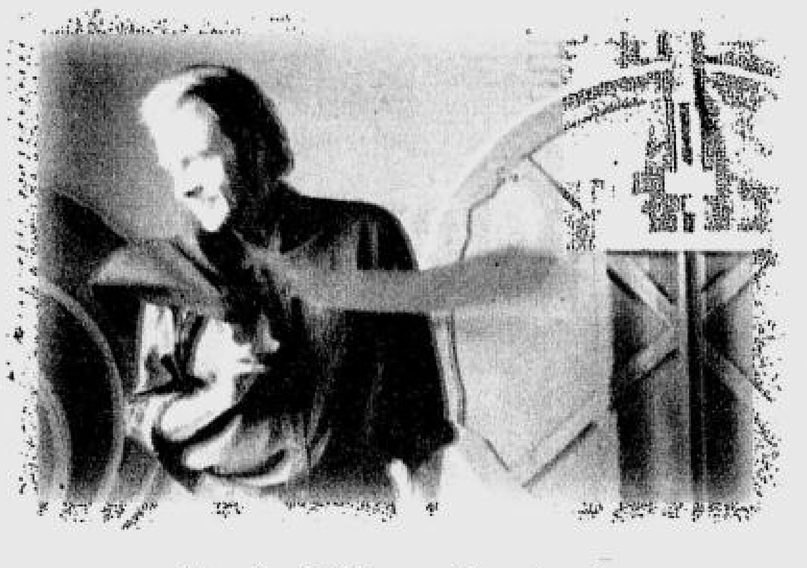
Dermclinic regulars can now experience the purifying and invigorating effects of oxygen therapy, under the professional supervision of Dermclinic staff, as it incorporates the rejuvenating effects of an oxygen bar with the popular medical facial procedure.

Oxygen therapy can be enjoyed by anyone with healthy lungs, and even beyond professions of medical benefits, people from all over the world have raved about its perk-me-up effect.

For more information on Dermclinic's Oxygen Therapy, contact the
dermclinic Hotline at 818-6274 / 813-0164.

FIESTA & FLAMENCO

Guests Artists



Luis Eduardo Aute

He was a former Manila resident. He is, first of all, a painter and went to Paris in quest of fresh styles in painting, which now seems so remote to Spaniards who lived in Spain during Franco's regime in the 60s. He discovered popular songs like the "song of the composer," Brassen and Jacques Brel, and also Dylan. This made him decide to try his luck, too. His first songs were smash hits: Alleluya No. 1, Rosas en el mar, Rojo sobre negro. Aute found himself competing with his own compositions just like Joan Manuel Serrat, his rival in popularity at the time.

Aute will also be opening an exhibit with his paintings and will be presenting his latest movie, "Un Perro Llamado Dolor" on October 30, 2001, 7 p.m., at St. Cecilia's Hall of the St. Scholastica's College in Malate.

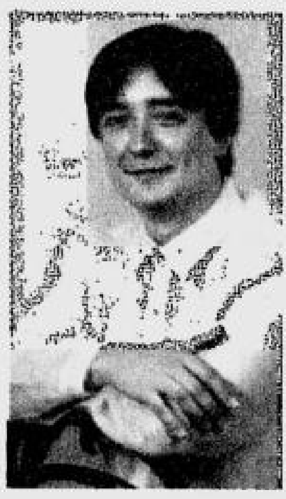
Armando Orbon

Armando Orbon was born in Gijon (Spain). With several musical familiar antecedents, he studied with the grand Regino Sainz de la Maza, who shaped his mastery of the guitar. He has been awarded several prizes in Spain and abroad.

October 17, RCBC Plaza.

*T**HE INSTITUTO** Cervantes will have a continuous cultural program all year long. They have highlighted October as the Spanish cultural month. Take a look at this calendar and take your pick. Savor Spain, so much a part of the Philippines. Find out why we have so much in common.*

Felipe Ramirez



Born in Madrid, **Felipe Ramirez** started his musical studies at age 7. He obtained the Professor Diploma in 1990 from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Madrid, where he attained the highest grades in piano under the chair of Professor Angeles Renteria. Since 1996, Felipe has toured in Spain, the Philippines and the United States. **Felipe** is also an accomplished photographer, painter and poet.

Flamenco

Novisimo: young flamenco brings together some of the most brilliant young flamenco artists from around Spain in a performance built around the work of the new generation who are shaping the art today. The dancers, singers and guitarists, already emerging as solo artists, have been chosen by two of flamenco's most respected institutions known for their pioneering work in developing young talent in keeping alive flamenco traditions: the Festival del Cante de las Minas and the Centro Amor de Dios, who are generously collaborating here together for the first time.

Tickets are available at the Instituto Cervantes, 2515 Leon Guinto cor, Estrada Sts. Malate, Manila with phone numbers 526-1482.

SCHEDULE

CCP (October 24, 2001)

Part I	
Recuerdos de Ubay	F. Ramirez
3 Danzas Espanolas	E. Granados
Fantasia Betica	M. de Falla
El Fandango de Candil	E. Granados
Part 2	
Quejas o la Maya y el Ruiseñor	E. Granados
Mayon, fantasia de concierto	F. Buencamino
Andante Spianato y Gran Polonesa	F. Chopin
Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2	F. Liszt

RCBC Plaza (October 27, 2001)

Part I	
Recuerdos de Ubay	F. Ramirez
El Sombrero de Tres Picos	M. de Falla
Danza de la Molinera	
Danza de los Vecinos	
Danza del Molinero	
Andante Spianato Gran Polonesa	F. Chopin
Part 2	
El Amor y la Muerte	E. Granados
Los Requiebros	E. Granados
Mayon, fantasia de concierto	F. Buencamino
Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2	F. Liszt

Contemporary Spanish Songs
October 15 and 18, RCBC Plaza, 7 p.m.

FAZOLI's: More Than Just A Taste of Italia in Manila

There's more to Fazoli's than its delectable Italian dishes which are served promptly and priced reasonably.

Photo shows Makati Congressman Teddy Locsin, Jr. (right) with Fazoli's operations manager Shiela Rivera (left) leading the ribbon cutting of Fazoli's second branch opening at Jupiter St., Bel-Air, Makati City. With them are (from left) Fazol'ls executive vice president Mario Alba, Fazoli's operations director Manuel Soriano and the Fazoli's Initial Training Team (FIT) from the U.S., namely (from left to back row) Steve Henson, Bryan Allen, Dave Kadel and Jill Cagel.

Fazoli's is the latest addition to a string of Italian-inspired restaurants in the metropolis, but definitely one that more than meets the eye because the dining experience affords a more intimate view of Italian culture and its gastronomic delights.

A happy mix of fastfood and casual dining concept, Fazolis highlights what is common to Filipino and Italian as far as food is concerned. Italians love to share their food much like the way Filipinos do. And over good food, stories are exchanged and laughter shared, which is exactly the idea behind Fazoli's, the Italian family restaurant. According to Shiela Rivera, Fazoli's operations manager, Fazoli's servings are big because it has in mind big families gathering for a meal.

With the ambience of fine dining and the concept of a fast-food restaurant, Fazoli's continues to draw the crowd. Fazoli's is an Italian family restaurant that is popular for its generous servings that are priced modestly. Fazoli's has outlets in Eastwood City Walk in Libis, Quezon City and in Jupiter St. Bel-Air, Makati City.

Fazoli's clientele comes in groups — office workers, employees — which is typical during weekdays. Weekends are when families come.

"We actually encourage group dining because of our American-sized servings. But make no mistake. Our food are reasonably priced. The drinks are bottomless and we have a continuous serving of freshly-baked garlic bread which is on the house if you order any pasta meal. What our customers get is value for money each time they dine here," Rivera adds.

Fazoli's caters to a wide target market. As diners enjoy the richness of Italian food, they can as well feast on Fazoli's ambiance amidst murals, and displays of jars of oil, baskets of pepper and spices plus the savory aroma of what's cooking wafting in the air. It's certainly quick service in a warm, homey and casual setting . Definitely, your idea of a fastfood restaurant with the ambiance of casual dining.

Appetizing Stromboli

A Blend of East and West

Fazoli's offers submarinos which are actually fresh baked sandwiches, pizzarinos, Italian chicken, pasta (spaghetti and fettuccine), as well as soup and salad. The taste has been adjusted to suit the Pinoy palate. "We were able to find the right blend to marry the taste of the East and the West," Rivera says.

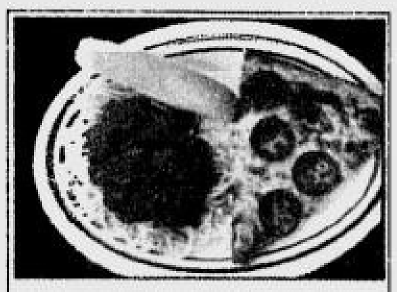
On the most preferred dishes, the Sampler Platter tops the list which is composed of fetuccini Alfredo, spaghetti and lasagna. Others on the hit list are the pepperoni pizza-spaghetti combo and the chicken al pesto which is an innovation introduced only here in the Philippines. Turtle cheesecake is the runaway choice for the most preferred dessert.

Fazoli's, an Italian family restaurant, opened its second outlet in Jupiter Street, Bel-Air, Makati City with a motorcade around the country's premier financial district. Fazoli's serves Italian food that is preferred by office workers and employees on weekdays and by the whole family on weekends.

A Good Time for All

Fazoli's wants to be known as a family restaurant that offers personalized service. Every customer has to be served in less than a minute in keeping to its tradition as a quick serve restaurant, except for the submarinos which has to be always freshly baked. That is why ovens at Fazoli's are always busy.

Fazoli's is patterned after a typical Italian family-run business where every member has a delineated task to keep the customers coming and the cash register ringing. With Fazoli's very own friendly service, store associates and managers see to it that every diner is comfortable or their needs promptly attended to. In short, it is everyone's task to ensure customers are satisfied . All in the spirit of family. "We want to sustain that kind of service because it makes us stand out above the rest," Rivera discloses.



Affordable Spaghetti-Pizza combo

From USA to Jupiter

Fazoli's started in 1988 in Lexington, Kentucky USA. From a handful of restaurants, it grew to 400 thriving company-owned and franchised Fazoli's restaurants spanning 28 states (as of June 1999).

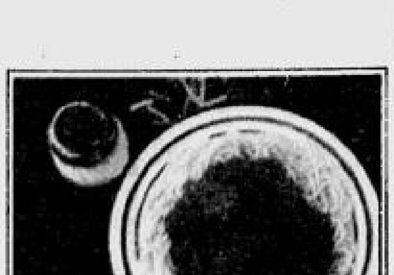
It took Lexington Foods, Inc., the local franchise holder, a lot of convincing for the franchisor to agree to open a franchise in the Philippines, this being the first country they have set up their international operations in.

Mouth-watering Fazoli's desserts like Blueberry Cheesecake, Turtle Cheesecake, Tiramisu,Chocolate Cake

The Americans were impressed because in the US it takes them one year to open upon approval of the franchise. Here, Fazoli's opened its first store after only six months. "We are flattered because the American principals of Fazoli's always tells everyone that two of the most beautiful Fazoli's restaurants are found in the Philippines.

Fazoli's has two outlets in the metropolis. The first is located in the classy Eastwood City Walk along E. Rodriguez in Libis, Quezon City which opened in December 2000. The second opened recently at Jupiter Street, Bel-air, Makati City.

Consistently living up to expectations – Real Italian, Real Fast – Fazoli's has been ranked number one in the US for quick service category in a national consumer survey conducted by the Restaurant and Institutions magazine.



Reasonably-priced Spaghetti with meatballs

Fazoli's may be a new player in the local fast food chain but it has been able to accomplish so much in so little a time — that of delighting palates and bridging cultures from the opposite side of the globe.

MARITER Jalandoni. Today she has a doctorate in Educational Administration, she's also a senior professor at Miriam College and heads the St. John de Cupertino School for Special Children.

ARTURO Macapagal is chair of Majal Properties and the country's foremost Olympian shooter.

YOUNG and full of expectations the SFFY members met often and raised funds diligently. From left are Greg Castillo, Evelyn Teehnakee Marichi Albert, Serge Osmeña, Marilou Mabilangan, Arturo Macapagal, Lourdes Jizon, Ada Ledesma. In front are Sonny Alvarez and Maricris Tabora.

SONNY Alvarez became Senator, then a Congressman, and is presently the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources.

CECILE Guidote was voted Ten Outstanding Students of the Year and heads the Peta theatre group.

SERGIO Osmeña III, was imprisoned during the Marcos regime, and went on to become one of the Senators of the Republic to date.

SUCCESSFUL businessman Ricky Delgado

RICA Gonzalez is an avid fundraiser and a civic leader, she is actively working for the Urban Poor.

ANTONIO (Tonette) Lagdameo is a successful entreneur and business tycoon. He also can sing the most wonderful Spanish Boleros and English love songs,

ADA Ledesma is an Author whose book Entertaining with Ease has won the National Book Award. She is an outstanding hostess who helps her husband Ambassador Felipe Mabilanga. Jr. in his numerous postings.

GREG Castillo drafted the incorporation papers of the SFFY, he went on to be a successful corporate lawyer. He married Bella Angara, now a member of congress. Greg succumbed to cancer a few years ago.

MARLA Yotoco is a well known author of Children's stories.

EVELYN Teehankee, married Rafael Zulueta and is a practicing psychologist in the United States. She is the daughter of the late Chief Justice and Ambassador Claudio Teehankee.

BENJIE Ledesma is a businessman and philanthropist.

The Scholarship Foundation Of The Filipino Youth (SFFY) Circa mid 1960's

BY CONCHITINA SEVILLA BERNARDO

WEATHERED photographs came back to life at a dinner party amid the laughter and reminiscing that often accompanies the inevitable "remember when's."

The original incorporators of the SFFY had gotten together at the home of **Arturo** and **Mariter Macapagal** to welcome a very accomplished friend and a member of SFFY, on a visit to Manila, from the United States, **Marilou Mabilangan Haley**. She was probably the highest-ranking Filipino in the **Clinton** administration having worked in the White House, and was director of the Export-Import (Ex-Im) Bank of the United States. It was **Marilou**, who remarked how the members of the SFFY had, in fact, all been movers and shakers, each in their own field, in the years that have gone by. It was as if fate had brought them together to synergize and consolidate their talents and achievements for a greater good. Some of them fell in love along the way and got married, like **Sonny Alvarez** and **Cecile Guidote**, **Arturo Macapagal** and **Mariter Jalandoni**.

The photos on this page, already brown and weary, will give you a glimpse of the members of SFFY who have in their own right achieved a great measure of success. Young and full of anticipation then, the incorporators of the SFFY launched the Madrigal Singers on their first concert to raise funds for indigent, and talented scholars. Then **President Diosdado Macapagal**, **First Lady Evangelina Mapagagal**, graced the occasion with a young **Gloria Macapagal** by their side. She too would, one day, have a destiny to fulfill.

Today the SFFY continues its mission to send deserving students to the University of the Philippines, Ateneo and De La Salle. One day it dared to look back and found out their amazement that the years had rolled on, but their vision remained the same—to serve, to encourage and to motivate, the Filipino youth so that they can be the very best they can be. Look at their members and be inspired!

A VERY young Gloria Macapagal in the audience, with her father and mother, President and Mrs. Diosdado Macapagal.

The Feminine Mystique: Hormone Health From Puberty To Post-menopause

BY THEA DELEY

FREQUENTLY, hormones are blamed for the nature of a woman's mood, when in reality they are more often the determinant of her health. That's because too much estrogen may lead to pre-menstrual syndrome (PMS), uterine fibroids and the growth of certain cancers, while too little can interfere with fertility or bring on perimenopausal symptoms such as hot flushes. Striking the delicate balance may be the key to resolving many women's health issues because hormones control much more than reproduction.

"There are hundreds of tissues in the body that have hormone receptors," says Susan Lark, MD, author of "The PMS Self-Help Book (Celestial Arts, 1984)." "Progesterone acts as a natural diuretic and has a constricting effect on blood vessels and muscles. Estrogen causes fluid and salt retention in tissues and has a relaxing effect on blood vessels. Estrogen is also growth-enhancing," which is why it instigates tissue growths like fibroids, breasts lumps and endometriosis. Progesterone is the opposite—it helps tissue mature, not keep growing," says Lark.

Since the brain also contains hormone receptors, estrogen and progesterone have emotional as well as physical effects. "Progesterone is the body's natural anti-anxiety and anti-irritation agent," says Stephanie DeGRaff Bender, MA, author of "The Power of Perimenopause (Crown Publishing, 1999)." "Estrogen is the body's natural anti-depressant. You can imagine what would happen if either of those were out of balance." During the early productive years, imbalances in these hormonal levels crop up in the form of PMS. As women enter perimenopause—commonly in their 30s and 40s—hormone levels naturally fluctuate as ovary functions gradually begin to wind down and the number of ova (eggs) decreases.

With fewer eggs and irregular ovulations, women's progesterone levels decrease. John Lee, MD, author of "What Your Doctor May Not Tell You About Menopause (Warner Books, 1999)" says, "Progesterone becomes deficient in about 55 percent of women in North America by the time they're 35 years old." He points to environmental toxins, particularly external estrogen sources called xenoestrogens, which upset the balance between progesterone and estrogen.

Symptoms of this imbalance vary. A woman may skip menstrual periods or experience shorter cycles due to diminishing levels of progesterone. Since estrogen thickens the endometrium, excessive estrogen overstimulates the endometrium and results in heavier periods, while declining levels of estrogen means lighter periods.

In response to declining estrogen levels, folicle-stimulating (FSH) levels increase as the body attempts to induce an egg to ripen. FSH dilates and fills capillaries just below the skin with blood, giving rise to night sweats and hot flashes. Furthermore, as estrogen levels diminish, so does collagen, which gives skin its elasticity. Less estrogen also causes thinning and drying of vaginal tissue, which may reduce sensation and make intercourse uncomfortable.

"Some women are predisposed to hormonal imbalances," says Bender. In addition to heredity, a woman's weight—too low or too high—diet, stress and lifestyle may make her more susceptible. For instance, avoiding exercise, skipping meals, eating sporadically, or ingesting too much sugar, refined carbohydrates and caffeine make blood sugar levels shoot up, then drop dramatically. "When blood sugar is low," Bender says, "the body releases adrenaline, the fight-or-flight hormone. Adrenaline covers up the progesterone receptor site—the place where progesterone needs to attach to be used by the body for natural anti-anxiety, anti-irritation effects." Anxiety, depression, an inability to concentrate and mood swings may follow.

"When a woman goes in to her health care practitioner complaining of these symptoms," says Bender, "the practitioner says, 'You're still cycling (menstruating), so you're not menopausal.' Frequently, if you're in your mid- to late-30s, you're told you need anti-depressants." Both Bender and Lark believe there are times when anti-depressants are appropriate. However, they prefer to prescribe foods, supplements, herbs, lifestyle changes and natural hormones to ease imbalances.

Technically, a woman in menopause when 12 consecutive months go by without a menstrual period. Until then, she should consider herself fertile and continue to use birth control. "The conventional practice of medicine gives the message to women that when they hit menopause, they're getting old," says Shari Lieberman, PhD, author of "Get Off The Menopause Roller Coaster (Avery, 2000). "But women are supposed to go through menopause. They're not supposed to go through menopause. They're not supposed to get pregnant when they're 60." Considering that today many women live one-third of their lives after menopause, it's hardly the end of the road.

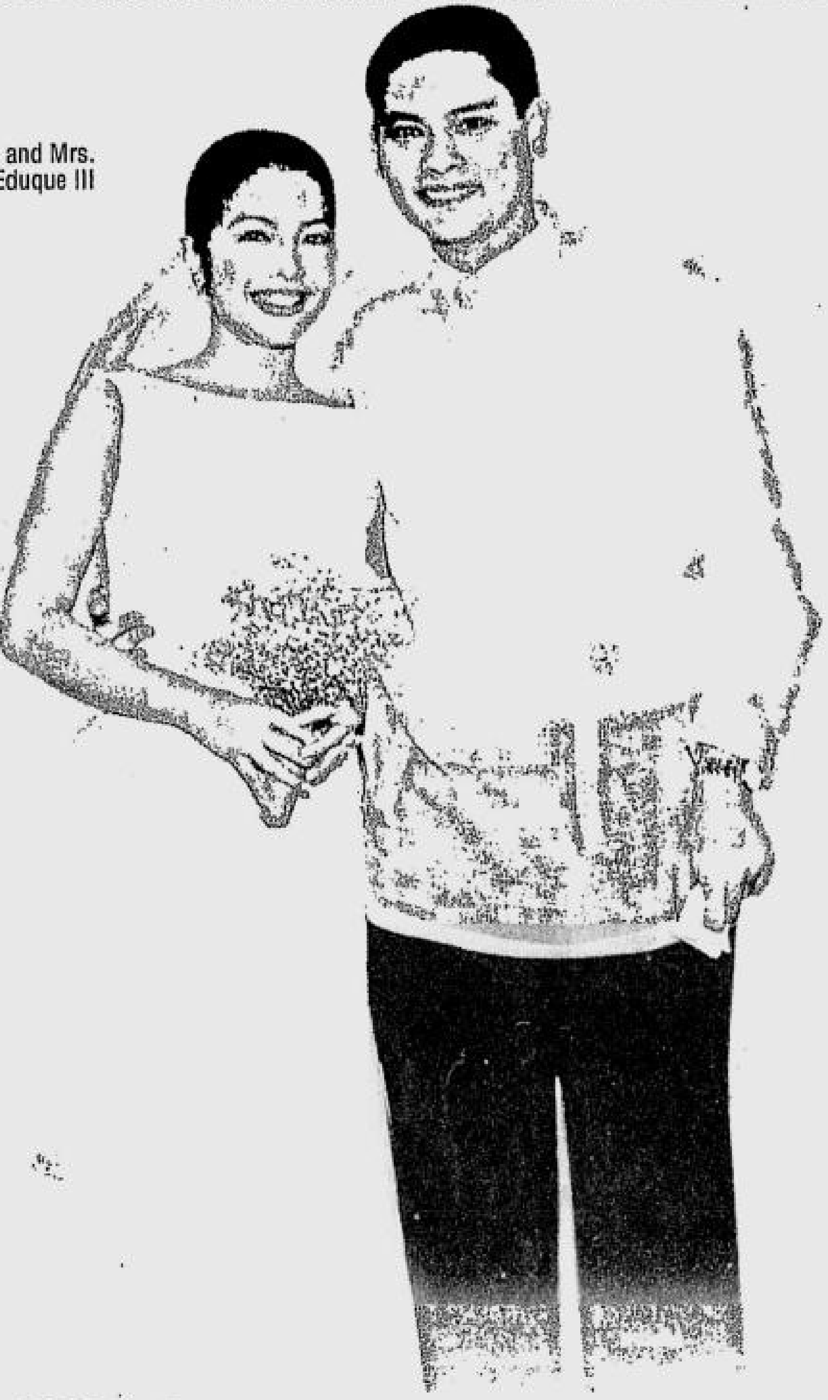
According to Lark, estrogen levels in menopausal women drop 70-90 percent and progesterone drops to practically nothing. But the body is innovative. "After menopause, estrogen production shifts from ovaries to fat cells," Bender says, "so we're producing a different type of estrogen from a different source."

There are three types of estrogen. Estradiol is the most potent and is produced only by the ovaries. Estrone is converted from estradiol, or, as estradiol levels decline in perimenopause, synthesized in fat cells. Estriol, the weakest form of estrogen, is produced by the placenta or converted from estrone. Although conventional medicine treats menopause as an estrogen deficiency, Lee says, "It's really the lack of progesterone that causes problems, since estrogen and progesterone work together."

While menopause is a natural transition, "American women are much more likely to experience hot flashes than Asia, Ethiopian or Mayan women," Lark says. "We eat primarily dairy-based diet. In countries where they eat a diet closer to the earth, one that's richer in phytonutrients and estrogen content, women are much more cushioned than we are against menopausal symptoms." This suggests younger women can protect themselves from a different menopause "by making healthful lifestyle changes now," Lieberman says. "That means eating well, taking a multi-vitamin, exercising and reducing stress."

Ironically, that advice applies to just about any hormonal imbalance. Even though you may feel out of control when your hormones are, remember that there are always options.

If you'd like to know more about Aeron LifeCycles, visit www.aeron.com. To avail of the test, contact Dra. Becky Singson, MD at 815-9911 or 892-7879.


MR. and Mrs. Armando Eduque III

THE HAPPY couple together with the principal sponsors

RADIANT Neny in a Pepito Albert gown

ATTY. Tony Carpio, Ramon Jacinto, Ching, Neny and Jun Campillo

OV and Marilen Espiritu, bride's Mom Ching Montinola, Marge and Chuching Tambunting, Maloy and Guilly Luchangco

SEATED from left are Elsie Tabora, Chiqui Locsin, Chuchu Madrigal Eduque and Menchu Katigbak. Standing from left are Fr. Joel Tabora, Jamby Madrigal, the groom's father, Mandy Eduque, Kim and Sec. Lito Camacho and Ging Montinola

FROM left are Connie Araneta, Girlie Dayrit, Vickie Zubiri, Carol Masibay, Baby A., Neny, Linda Panlilio, Maribeth de Leon, Lorivi Guidote Valdez

Eduque Montinola NUPTIALS

THE BRIDE and groom with the secondary sponsors

PHOTOS BY EDDIE BOY ESCUDERO

BEFORE the impressive and grandiose altar of St. James the Great in Ayala Alabang, **Natividad Montinola**, daughter of **Ching de las Alas** and **Sergio Montinola**, exchanged marriage vows with **Armando Eduque** Jr. last June, officiated by the groom's uncle, **Fr. Joel Tabora.**

The union was a blessed and sentimental occasion for both families as they go back to three generations. **Neny**, auntie and namesake of the bride and **Manny Sr.**, grandfather of the groom, were good friends and moved in the same circle.

With the music strains of the **Bernie Pasamba Quartet, Neny** was exquisite as she walked down the aisle with her father in a **Pepito Albert** gown, Sabrina cut in taffeta silk fabric and bareback, held together by white net, beaded with crystals, the long train and floor-length veil completed the touch of serene elegance. Her make-up and hair-do were executed by **Patrick Rosas**. Her hair was pulled back in a bun encircled by diamond pins enhancing her bridal glow.

At the parting, tears were shed by both father and daughter as he handed her over to the tall, dashing groom. Throughout the ceremony, **Mandy**, obviously emotional, showered **Neny** with solicitous attention capped by the tender kisses he lovingly gave her at the finale.

The prominent list of sponsors include former **Pres. Fidel Ramos** and **Imelda Cojuangco; Benito Araneta** and **Ambassador Isabel Wilson; Patrick Parsons** and **Menchu Concepcion; Aurelio Montinola III, Mercy Tuason** and **Bienvenido Tantoco, Jr.**; and **Vivian Luchengco, Constantino Manahan, Jr.** and **Ruby Meyer**. The secondary sponsors and junior participants complemented the charming entourage, all elegantly attired with shades of green, the color motif of the wedding. The religious and love songs were rendered by **Erica Concepcion** and **Ogie Alcasid Jr.** They made beautiful music together, summing up the couple's feeling for one another.

The grand reception was held at the extremely beautiful and imposing residence of **Baby Benito Araneta**. To accommodate the numerous guests, a 500-square meter air-conditioned tent was set up, ready for the impending foul weather. The flowers and décor were done by the groom's aunt, **Toni Serrano Parsons**. Everything was so tastefully done with restrained and excellent taste. The sumptuous dinner spread was catered by **La Tasca**, with all the varieties of gourmet delicacies and dishes one could savor.

The guests, all of whom made an effort to share the joy with people they cared about and braved the distance of the weather, mostly from the old society families, intimate relations and close friends were visibly enthralled and enjoyed the evening.

After the traditional toasts and the touching speeches, the floor was opened for dancing till the wee hours of the morning.

TRICCI Sison, Pilina Rocha, Marivic Concepcion, Louie Sison, Joe Concepcion, Justice Bernardo Pardo, Ching Montinola, Ambassador John Rocha and Bomboy Araneta

SEC. and Mrs. Rene Corona

IN THE arms of her father: Serge Montinola

THE GROOM Mandy Eduque and his Mom Baby Araneta cheerfully do the traditional walking down the aisle.

PRINCIPAL sponsors Gigi Montinola and Mercy Tuason

THE GROOM's father, Armando Eduque, Jr. and the bride's mother, Ching Montinola

SPONSORS Bienvenido Tantoco, Jr. and Vivian Yuchengco

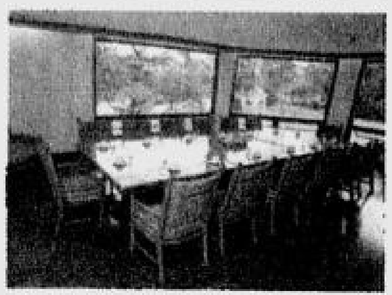
PRINCIPAL sponsors former President Fidel V. Ramos and Imelda O. Cojuangco

BOMBOY Araneta and Ambassador Isabel Wilson

PATRICK Parsons and Menchu Concepcion

SPONSORS Ruby Meyer and Constantino Manahan, Jr.

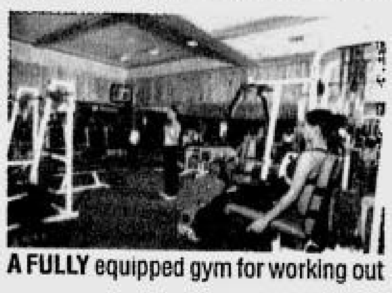
BUSINESS center


THE PRESIDENT'S Room

PASTRY shop

THE PRESIDENTIAL suite

VERANDAH


A FULLY equipped gym for working out

THE GOLFER'S lounge

BUTLER-BUSINESS center

For Corporate Affairs

BAGUIO City, located some 255 kilometers north of Manila, has long been considered the "Summer Capital" of the Philippines. It is a picturesque city of pine trees, flower gardens, beautifully landscaped parks and fruit farms. An idyllic retreat situated 5,000 feet above sea level, its cool climate, fresh air, lush greenery and natural beauty has always been an attraction to visitors.

Established by American Governor Cameron Forbes in 1905, it was the first of its kind in the Philippines, and possibly, the oldest golf and country club in the country. Today, it is still the most distinctive in character and continues to be one of the most prestigious and exclusive membership clubs in the country, and perhaps even in Asia.

BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB

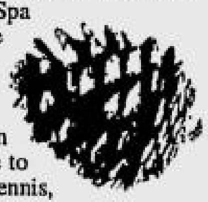
From its humble beginnings, the Club has grown in stature after almost 10 years. Now catering to over 2,500 members, 40 percent of which are corporate members such as San Miguel Corporation, Petron and Coca-Cola among others, which belong to the country's top corporations. Furthermore, its corporate roster represents a wide spectrum of businesses, ranging from commercial banking, to mining, to telecommunications, real estate, trading and manufacturing, stock brokerage, and even to shipping, insurance and investment houses, media transportation, and even pharmaceuticals, among others.

Given the type of clientele the Club serves, it constantly endeavors to pursue its vision of providing the best possible facilities and services. Indeed, it continues to live up to the expectation that it is truly a privilege to be a member of Baguio Country Club.

It is an ideal venue for family vacations and gatherings, as well as an exhilarating place for company activities such as conferences, teambuilding sessions or workshops.

In order to keep up with current trends, the Club has renovated its Business Center, with an adjoining private meeting room called the Butler Room, with the corporate guests in mind.

The cool Baguio climate encourages golf at the Club's par 63 tournament course. Those who prefer more strenuous activities may prefer to try the new covered tennis courts located near the Club's East Wing. Located right next to it, the new indoor swimming pool area has heated pools, which includes a lap pool, a kiddie pool and an adjoining Spa to provide relaxation for the whole family. For indoor activities, the Recreation Center is the place to be. It offers table tennis, darts, billiards and video games. Moreover, the bowling lanes are currently being upgraded to keep up with current trends.



Incidentally, the stockholders will hold their annual meeting this November. The Bagio Country Club gas created a Board of Advisors whose primary responsibility will be to map out a strategic plan for the Club's long-term development and line-up of improvements. Former Tarlac Governor Margarita "Tingting" Cojuangco has been nominated to chair the Club's Board of Advisors.

Indeed, the Club which has been in existence for nearly 100 years, continues to strive to maintain its world-class standards.

THE FACADE of Baguio Country Club

CLUB cottages

MANICURED greens nestled between the Baguio pine trees

HUGGIES®
Pull-Ups
toddler's world

When is the right time to potty train your toddler?

Toilet or potty training -- aside from breastfeeding and diaper-changing -- remains the next huge step that mommies need to hurdle with their youngsters. Teaching little tykes to go to the toilet for peeing and during "poop" time can be a stressful task, especially for first-time parents.

So for moms, when is the right time to potty train your active toddlers?

Child-care practitioners suggest that parents should look for signs of physical, emotional, and cognitive readiness before attempting to toilet train kids. Most signs begin to emerge between 18 and 24 months of age, though this may vary.

Here are a few signs that parents should look for before potty or toilet training:

- Your child stays dry for at least two hours during the day and is dry after naps, which indicates that he or she is able to remain dry for an extended period of time.
- Can follow simple instructions, such as a request to sit down or remove his clothing.
- Shows an interest in wearing or even asks to wear grown-up underwear.
- Walks to and from the bathroom, sits still on his own for at least a few minutes
- Shows obvious signs of discomfort when the diaper is wet or soiled.
- Has predictable bowel movement on a regular basis.
- Expresses an interest in using the toilet or potty seat.
- Indicates through facial expression, posture, or language that he or she is ready to use the toilet.

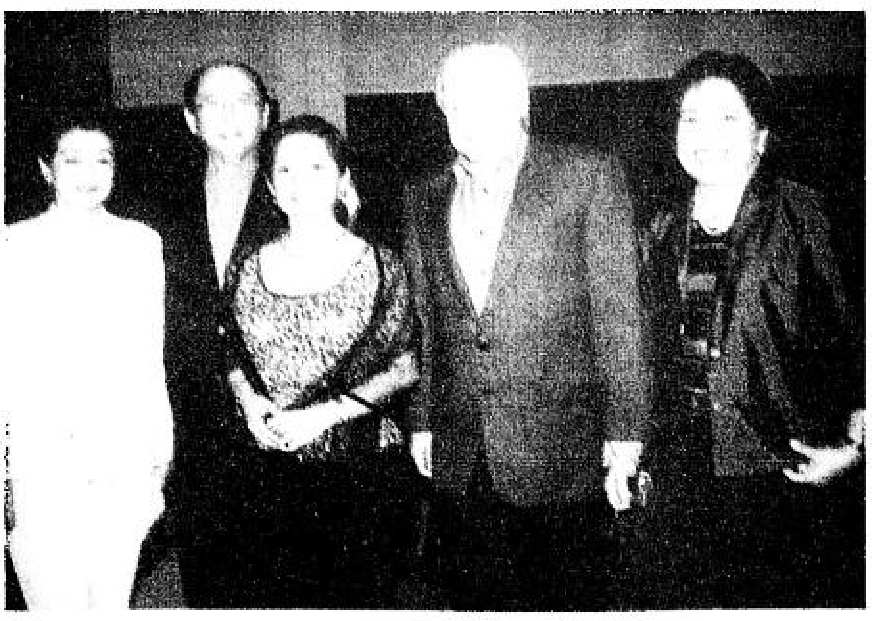
Mom's partner in potty training

There is now a new product that will spell wonders for both toddlers and moms. A quality product of Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. (K-CPI), the new PULL-UPS® Training Pants by HUGGIES® is the perfect partner of moms during this delicate stage in their toddler's life. The training pants are the first disposable absorbent product especially designed for toilet or potty training. Carrying different variants for boys (in royal blue pack) and girls (in fuschia pack), PULL-UPS® comes in a unique pants form which can be pulled up and down like underwear; has attractive fun designs so kids will love wearing it even without outer shorts; has an absorbent center which still protects like a diaper for accidents while training; and tear-away sides for easy removal during accidents to make potty training fun and easy for toddlers and worry-free for moms. Both variants have the "magic stars" (for boys) and "magic hearts" (for girls) feature, which are meant to motivate the child to stay dry so the designs won't fade. Of course, toddlers need all the emotional support that they can get from mommies when potty training. Many studies have proven that toddlers will take to adulthood whatever experience they had during this process. Thus, you should make them understand, in the simplest terms, that it's one of the most natural things in their life that they need to surpass for them to become "big" boys and girls later on. By doing so, you can help make them independent enough to go to the bathroom on their own.

NEW Pull-Ups
What goes up must come down.
Pull-Ups
13
Pull-Ups
13

Turn toilet training into a fun experience for your toddler with NEW PULL-UPS® Training Pants. She can pull them up and down just like real underwear for a truly hands-on experience. But when she experiences "accidents", its absorbent center will keep her dry. Now, toilet training will be something you and your toddler will look forward to.

® Registered Trademark of Kimberly-Clark Corporation, U.S.A.



FLANKING Her Excellency are Olivia Romulo, Roberto Romulo, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Jose Cuisia, Jr. and wife Vicky Cuisia.

GM Soeren Hansen and Senate President Franklin Drilon

MADAME Clara Colesanti of Italy and Nedy Tantoco

Scene at The Tower

PROBABLY the current buzz around town is the newly opened **Tower Club**. Atop the new Philamlife Tower located near the corners of Ayala and Paseo de Roxas in Makati, this club boast of veritable who's whos in its membership roster.

A true dining experience for the most discriminating of palates, there are several restaurants that range from Cantonese cuisine to Western fare. All prepared by the most sought after gourmet chefs.

There is a well-stacked bar, a fabulous wine cellar and a Havana room for smoking your favorite cigar and sipping your finest cognacs.

There are boardroom facilities and private dining rooms.

For the fitness buff, a well-equipped health club is open till 10 pm.

Definitely the place to see and be seen!

USEC Josie Lichauco, H.E. Ambassador Umberto Colesanti of Italy and Senator Loren Legarda

SONNY Dominguez, Ball Dominguez, Roberto Romulo, Nick Alcantara, Franklin Drilon, Mila Drilon and Cesar Buenaventura

"Dress Up Your Branch"

BY EDNA REYNOSO-ANTON

THE BANK of the Philippine Islands (BPI), considered as Southeast Asia's and the country's oldest bank that was founded 150 years ago celebrated a historic milestone last August 1,2001 with a nationwide "Dress Up Your Branch" contest. Getting into the spirit of the competition, all 687 BPI branches across the country transformed their offices into "Spanish-time ambience," "*Katipunero* moods" and modern day "*fiesta*" motifs.

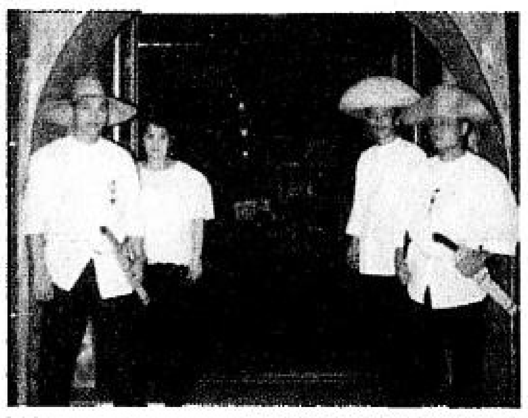
Adjudged best nationwide was the BPI Family Bank Laoag branch, whose theme, "Blast from the Past" won hands down in the final count done at the head office in Manila. The Bank's façade had a "*calasine*" carriage with antique bull cartwheels. Adorned by the "*swag*" (a curve shaped décor made of nipa and mahogany fruits) it also had a very antique "*lampara*" used by our ancestors long ago.

Reeking with antiquity, everything inside the Laoag branch, from the bank lobby where antique "bauls" or wooden boxes (originally used as safety deposit boxes where valuables and precious clothes were stored) were used as center tables for long wooden benches, to the beautifully crafted house divider made of capiz that is common to typical Ilocos houses. Genuine paintings of the Paoay Church—the country's oldest, the Dingras Ruins and the Heritage Village are just a few of the items lent to the bank by its faithful customers. Even an old adding machine uncovered in a client's garage was used as decor and various lamps, jars and religious artifacts lovingly preserved for generations by Ilocanos were polished and displayed for the duration of the contest.

BPI Family Bank Laoag branch employees recreate the ambience of long ago. Front, L to R: Corazon M. Formoso, Erlinda M. Ventura, Carmelita A. Pineda, Leonida P. Vidad, Josefina G. Quindara and Gilda S. Victoriano. Behind; Pacifico B. Albano, assistant manager Jerome B. Minglana, manager Danilo V. Villasenor and Rolando R. Tomas.

INSIDE the Laoag bank's antique interior, modern day clients wait for their turn.

TAKEN at the opening of the Currency and Memorabilia exhibit last month at the BPI building along Session Road. From left are Baguio City Vice Mayor Lourdes Tabanda, Mayor Bernardo Vergara, BPI Vice President Chit Eslao and BPI Session branch manager Rey Abellada.



BPI Baguio Burnham branch won second place in the regional contest among the 25 Northern Luzon branches under the supervision of vivacious area head VP Ma. Concepcion Eslao. Note the costumed security guards at the entrance.

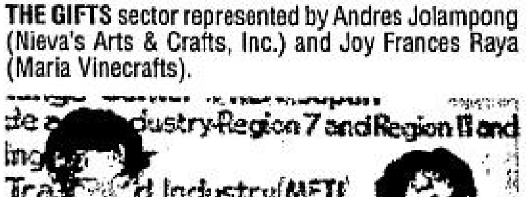
THE BPI San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte branch had their antique corner. L to R; Marilyn Barrera, Claire Nalupta, Shella Tabaniag, Marites Bitancor and Benjo Albano.

Cyberbiz Links Davao Firms And Osaka

ENGR. Merly M. Cruz, DTI Regional Director for Region XI, welcomes guests and participants of the first-ever long-distance seminar linking Osaka, Cebu and Davao cities—the IBCS.

PROCESSED food producers—Edmund Marcelo (Lapanday Foods Corp.) and Ma. Christina Ramos (Sirawan Food Corporation).

THE GIFTS sector represented by Andres Jolampong (Nieva's Arts & Crafts, Inc.) and Joy Frances Raya (Maria Vinecrafts).



THE FURNITURE makers—Amado S. Munda, Jr. (Bay Woodcrafts) and Damian Corona (Cadet Development Corp.)

BY FE R. DACUDAO

ENTREPRENEURS from Davao City and Mindanao participated in a pioneering event, the International Business Competitiveness Seminar (ICBS). Through video-conferencing and the Internet, the four-day long-distance seminar held last week at the Marco Polo Davao linked a team of Japanese product experts of Osaka, Japan and selected food, wood, furniture and gifts manufacturers in the region The novel high-tech conference also took place simulteneously in Cebu City attended by exporters from the same sectors.

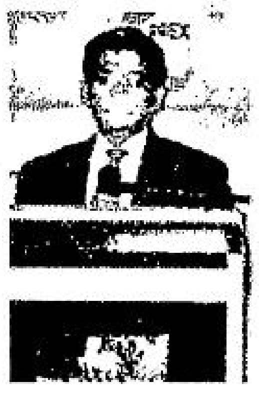
The intricate interactive, face-to-face technology allowed the participants at the three sites to discuss, meet and dialogue with virtually minimal or no travel costs. Through the exercise they learned the intricacies of exporting to Japan and understood the market preferences in that country, being the second largest buyer of Philippine goods.

The monumental project was embarked on by our Trade Attache in Osaka, Mr Mauino Haresco. together with a collaboration of several Japanese agencies—the Association of Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS), the Kansai Economic Federation (KANKEIREN), the Pacific Resource Exchange Center (PREX) under the support of their Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)—and our local bodies, the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC) and DTI Regions 7 and 11.

DTI Region 11 Director Merly Cruz expressed great optimism that the companies, notably anchored on agribusiness, would reach their great potentials in competitiveness to bring much needed export earnings for the area. Recognizing that the Japanese-aided virtual conference is a long-term investment, she emphasized that it was a step for the small and medium enterprises to build a solid relationship between Japan and Davao/Mindanao.

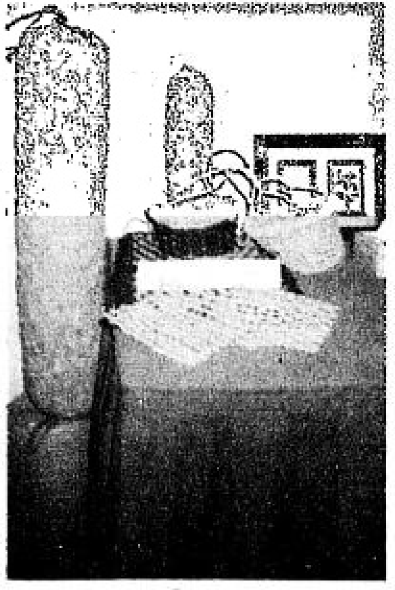
The sixty-seven companies found the IBCS interactive lecture very encouraging. The product development session, the firms' product presentations for the Japanese evaluation team and the panel discussions proved to be potent aids in developing successful business matching in the near future.

> The intricate interaction allowed the participants at the three sites to discuss and meet with minimal costs

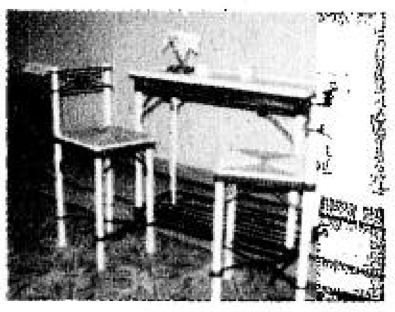


MAUINO T. Haresco, the Philippines' Trade Attache to Osaka, Japan gives a general orientation on the interactive event utilizing the technology of video-conferencing and Internet.

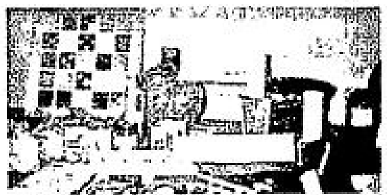
THE WOOD group composed of (from left) Ruben Tungpalan (C. Alcantara & Sons), Francisco Alolod (Phela Resource Corp.) and Mark Henry Wee (Consolidated Plywood Industries, Inc.).



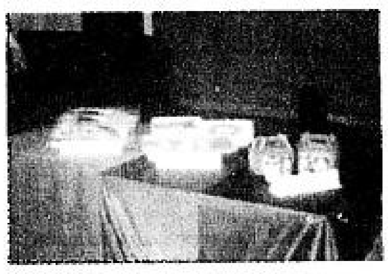
FROM Biofaser Fibers, Inc., a unique collection of coco-coir products



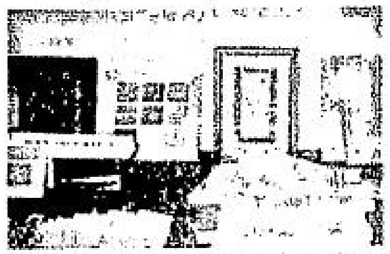
WOODEN bar set from Corinthian Designs



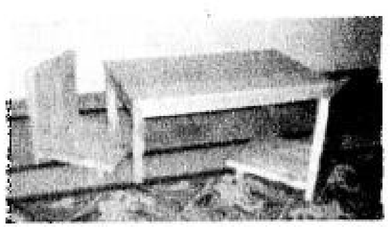
GIFTS crafted from nature's bounty of wood, dried seeds and vines, and processed fruits manufactured by Davao and Cotabato companies



FRESH tropical produce from Lapanday Foods Corporation



AN ARRAY of wooden products from Consolidated Plywood Industries, Inc.



JAPANESE table set from Bay Woodcrafts passion + The Pacific Plaza Towers

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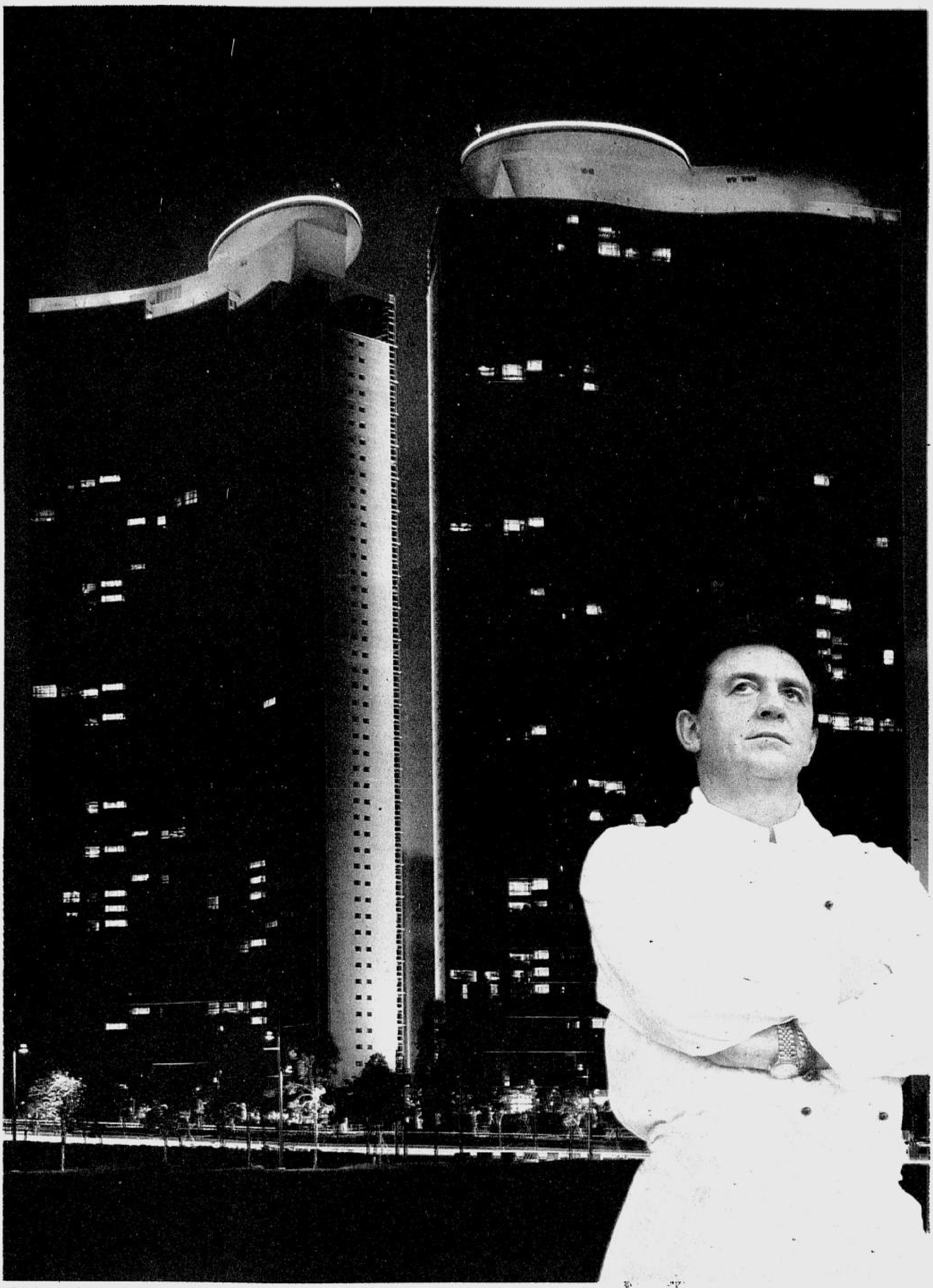

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Billie King, Restaurateur/Owner
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NESTOR U. TORRE, Editor **EDMUND L. SICAM**, Associate Editor

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Banana Smoothie

1-2 bananas (lacatan or bongolan)
1 tbsp. lemon or calamansi juice
1/2 cup ice cold water or
1 cup shaved ice
2 tbsps. sugar, or to taste
1 170g. can NESTLÉ CREAM

Purée bananas in blender. Blend in rest of ingredients. Shake vigorously. Pour into individual glasses.

Watch out for next week's fruity treat!

Madonna, husband plan movie together

LOS ANGELES—Undeterred by her dismal record at the box office, Madonna will star for her director husband in an update of the romantic saga "Swept Away," Daily Variety recently reported.

Lead role

The pop star will take the lead role as a spoiled rich woman who goes on a yachting holiday with friends in the Mediterranean and gets entangled in an unlikely romance with a communist sailor, the trade paper said.

The film will be directed by Guy Ritchie, who became Madonna's second husband last December and shot her recent video "What It Feels Like for a Girl."

Madonna co-starred with her first husband, Sean Penn, in the 1986 film "Shanghai Surprise," which died at the box office. Their stormy marriage followed suit three years later.

THE RITCHIES. In the film which he will direct, she plays a rich woman who gets entangled in a romance with a communist sailor.

Third feature

"Swept Away," based on Lina Wertmuller's 1975 Italian-language movie, will mark the British director's third feature and a dramatic departure from his two previous efforts, the mob dramas "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels" and "Snatch." It is possibly scheduled for a fall shoot, Daily Variety said.

Madonna was most recently in theaters in "The Next Best Thing," a 2000 romantic comedy flop co-starring Rupert Everett.

Other credits include "Evita," "Who's That Girl," "Body of Evidence" and the 1985 hit, "Desperately Seeking Susan."

Madonna, 43, is on a concert tour of the United States. *Reuters*

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Crown Asia

Right techniques, attitudes and values learned in FDFPI's screenwriting workshop

By Nestor U. Torre

FOR six weekends (Friday to Sunday) starting on Oct. 26, the Film Development Foundation of the Philippines will be holding the latest edition of its annual TV-Film Screenwriting Workshop. The well-regarded workshop has graduated many young writers who are now actively working in the TV and movie industries.

In addition, they regularly win top prizes in national screenwriting competitions, and their winning scripts are bought for production by the leading movie studios in the country.

Competitive world

Why do the FDFPI workshop graduates manage to survive and even thrive in the difficult and very competitive world of local TV-film scriptwriting? One reason is the fact that the foundation's six-week course has been conceptualized and worked out by experienced practitioners in the field, led by veteran producer Marichu Vera-Perez Maceda.

From the very start, they knew that "quickie" courses didn't really prepare new writers for the complicated task of film scripting. So, enough time was allotted for numerous lectures, writing exercises, film viewings and discussions designed to give workshoppers an in-depth understanding of the processes involved in coming up with a full-length film script, the basic requirement for graduation from the workshop.

Guest lecturers

Workshoppers learned a lot from guest lecturers who included some of the leading producers, directors, screenwriters and actors in the country. They shared actual experiences that gave workshoppers a realistic view of the task of writing good scripts in the local film scene, with all of its problems, stresses and limitations.

Workshoppers were also familiarized with actual filmmaking situation by way of a visit to studios, movie sets and post-production facilities.

Even after the course, they were helped in placing their scripts with producers, especially when those scripts emerged as winners in screenwriting competitions.

Starting ground

Marichu Maceda's own TV drama production, "Pira-pirasong Pangarap," has become a starting ground for some talented workshop graduates to show what they can do in terms of professional scripting, and a number of the show's neophyte writers have gone on to writing scripts for other TV programs and for the movies.

MACEDA. Her TV series has become a starting ground for graduates.

What is needed isn't just talent but strong determination, perseverance and a positive way of handling rejection

Thus, since the foundation's annual screenwriting workshop started to be held annually in 1996, it has gained a good reputation for turning out graduates who not only write well, but are also grounded in a realistic, practical understanding of how the local TV-film industries work, and how to find employment in them.

Perseverance

But the FDFPI workshop makes it clear that success in this field isn't easily achieved. What is needed isn't just talent, but strong determination, perseverance, and a positive way of handling rejection.

The movie industry keeps saying that it needs new talents to come up with fresh ideas to revitalize its products, but in actuality, new writers are often discouraged when they make their initial bids to work in the industry.

If they aren't determined to succeed, they will most probably quit after the first few rejections, and that'll be it for them. But other workshoppers are made of sterner stuff, and they are the ones who are now head writers or in-house writers for productions of some of the leading TV networks and movie studios.

Wonderful way

Even better, they have this wonderful way of helping each other make the grade. When one workshopper is particularly successful, he or she suggests fellow workshoppers to producers, and they too get hired.

This accounts for the relatively large number of FDFPI workshop graduates who are now in the TV-film industries. And this shows that, during the workshop, they learned not just the right scripting techniques and attitudes, but also the right values.

Writers interested in joining the 2001 FDFPI Screenwriting Workshop are asked to call Linda, Lilet, Maxie or Fely at 551-4677 or 832-1125 locals 2113, 2114, 2115 or 2116. Or they can visit the FDFPI offices at 3/F, Production Design Center bldg., CCP Complex, Roxas blvd., Pasay City. E-mail address is fdf@frib.com.ph.

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Toti Fuentes helps lure mature crowd to Hard Rock Café

By Jocelyn Valle

HARD Rock Café is known all over the world as a theme restaurant that offers nightly live entertainment. "Since it opened here in 1995," recalls Hard Rock Café Manila's Ricky Santiago, "it's been known as a venue for show bands."

Other bars

But, Ricky admits, those show bands also perform in other bars. So, to make nightly performances at the Hard Rock more special, he thought of bringing into the bar non-mainstream but similarly celebrated acts.

"Since May, we've been experimenting with some groups as a pre-program

FUENTES. Expert in Brazilian music.

TOTI/ P. D3

Tessie Tomas takes time to count her blessings

WHEN she was offered the *kontrabida* role on the defunct primetime soap "Sa Sandaling Kailangan Mo Ako," Tessie Tomas had second thoughts. "I didn't want to be hated," she says.

First time

The well-loved comedienne, hated? Believe it or not, people loved her as a *kontrabida* on the show. It was her first time to play such a role, but Tessie is no stranger to taking risks.

In her 20 years in show biz, she has tried almost everything, from drama ("Sa Sandaling Kailangan Mo Ako") to public affairs (on "Compañero y Compañera") to comedy ("Champoy," "Abangan ang Susunod na Kabanata" and "Eto na ang Sususnod na Kabanata") to daytime TV "Teysi ng Tahanan" and her current show, "Feel at Home").

The element of excitement is what Tessie loves about her career—being able to play different characters and roles and switching back and forth between each one with ease.

As of last count, she has done about a hundred characters, with about 20 of them based on prominent people in government, show biz and high society. She also looks forward to trying other new things in the future.

Plans

Tessie says that she's definitely mellowed. "Maybe it comes it age," laughs Tessie, who turned 50 late last year. She has a lot of plans for herself, none of which have anything to do with her career. She talks about going to India and seeing first-hand what a monk's life is like, among other things.

"Fifty is a good age to be, because I can start letting go of certain things. You no longer have so many expectations or pressures to live up to. You also learn to recognize what's really important and accept things as they are, instead of getting upset all the time."

Family is one of those things. After marrying British marine biologist Roger Pullin four years ago, Tessie has learned to enjoy domestic life. She and Roger occupy a two-bedroom condominium in Legaspi Village, Makati City, which is very near Greenbelt.

TOMAS. In her 20 years in show biz, she has tried almost everything.

They live alone in the townhouse, since Tessie's son Robin is studying in New York, and Roger's daughters Lucy and Alice live in England. Robin has been in New York since January, and while Tessie admits that she misses her only child, there is a good side to it also.

Only child

"It's doing a lot of good," she explains. "*Kasi siyempre*, he's an only child, so I have a tendency to spoil him. It's good that he's living alone (in an apartment in Queens), because he learns to be more independent."

Tessie says that being away from her son is hard, but at the same time it's good for both of them.

When she's not busy, Tessie often strolls down to Greenbelt to shop, or to hear mass at the chapel.

"When we got married, both of us promised ourselves that we would slow down," says Tessie.

In a way, it was a good thing that one of her weekly shows, "Eto na ang Susunod na Kabanata," recently ended its run on TV. "Because of that, I'm able to find time for other things, like entertaining at home."

But much as she longs for the slow, unhurried life, that doesn't mean that Tessie is about to retire. Oh no, not yet! And definitely, not before she sees her newest "baby" through.

That baby is "Teysi @ Tweynti," a retrospective show of her finest moments in comedy. The show goes onstage at the Music Museum on Oct. 12 and 13, 26 and 27 and comes two months after Tessie's real anniversary in show biz, which falls in August. Tessie spent the last month and a half preparing for this major show that will feature some of her best and most memomble characters like the long-running Meldita, starlet Bonnie Buendin (who faces stiff competition from Ms Tika, the Starlet of the New Millenium) and weathergirl Amanda Pineda.

Watch out for Tessie conversing with different "versions" of herself via a video wall—talk about split personalities!—this should really be fun!

‘Superman’ composer has written the perfect anthem for lonely people

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

JOHN Ondrasik, popularly known as the singer, pianist and guitarist of the one-man band, Five for Fighting, believes that his song, “Superman” is the perfect anthem for lonely people. He feels that it exemplifies everyone’s need to belong and be needed. It also speaks of one’s desire to stir some dormant sense of heroism.

Icon worship

At the same time his song, “Michael Jordan” explores the current icon worship in America. The melody of “Easy Tonight” camouflages it into a love song even if it really talks about suicide.

John enjoys depicting slices of life in his songs. The lyrics are edgy in some places, sarcastic and witty, but definitely honest.

His music also personifies who he is as a person. He’s simple, straightforward, brutally honest and pensive. “This music comes from the heart and hopefully it can move people. I think there’s something in ‘America Town’ for everybody.

“My goal was to write songs that an eight-year-old kid would love to sing along to, and also songs that a college student could relate to. The greatest honor will be if, in 10 years, someone pulls this album out of his collection and still remembers a song that meant something in his life. That’s what I hope I’ve done,” John relates.

He prefers to call himself “Five for Fighting” because it’s his battle cry to be different in an industry that prefers pop and flashy tunes. He took the term from his favorite sport, hockey.

“Five for Fighting means a penalty in hockey --five minutes in a penalty box for fighting. Personally, I see Five for Fighting as a group of people, musicians and non-musicians working passionately to realize their ideals.

Metaphor

“It’s also a metaphor for battling the giants in the music industry, and working to get your songs heard, while still remaining non-trivial and honest,” John shares.

He learned how to play the piano from his mother, but he ended his piano lessons when he was 13 years old. His parents gave his sister a guitar for her birthday and he stole it so that he could teach himself how to play.

“I wrote my first song with the guitar. I bought the flashiest electric guitar, a cheap amp, put on ‘Frampton Comes Alive’ and played that for two straight years. I never became a great guitar player but I became proficient enough to write songs.”

Even if he was formally trained in opera, John opted to follow the footsteps of his astrophysicist father. He majored in computer science at UCLA but shifted to math because he wanted to spend more time with his musical instruments.

“I started out majoring in computer science but I spent 10 hours in front of the computer and only two hours in front of a piano. So I changed my major to math, which allowed me to spend two hours in front of a book and 10 hours in front of a tape machine, piano and guitar,” John grins.

Bad songs

He idolized the Beatles, Elton John, Journey, Stevie Wonder, and Earth, Wind and Fire so he focused on rock ‘n’ roll. He admits though that he wrote bad songs before he hit the right formula for a hit song.

WANTS to believe that his music is timeless.

“Writing bad song after bad song can be frustrating. It was a struggle. But I think I needed to write a lot of songs before I become a good songwriter,” John shares.

John aims for variety but he doesn’t want to do anything too tricky. He wants his melodies to be smooth but edgy, his lyrics honest but different. He claims that his music isn’t perfect.

“I squeaked out a few horrible notes on the violin in ‘Michael Jordan.’ But I want to believe that my music is timeless. It speaks of love, joy, despair, hope and confusion. It can be uplifting or complicated, depending on the mood of the listener,” he clarifies.

Well, his “Love Song” makes listeners squirm instead of giving the usual mushy, warm, sweet feeling. If you dig deep enough, you’ll hear melodies and words that make you ponder about life and love in general—and in particular!

Toti . . . (From page D2)

for the show bands,” he continues. “*Dapat* one band *lang*, but it clicked with our audiences. And then from one month, *naging* continuous *na*.”

The move was intended to lure the mature set into the hangout of the young. “We really want to expand our market,” he nods, “without losing our regular patrons.”

We get his point. While Hard Rock yields the stage to popular performers like Freestyle, South Border, Dingdong Avanzado, Rannie Raymundo, Pido with Take One and Aiza Seguerra for special shows, it likewise provides the venue for musicians like the members of the Asciano band that specializes in Latin music, and Toti Fuentes who’s an expert in Brazilian funk, pop, soul and jazz-fusion.

Jazz shows

We’ve watched Toti in several jazz shows and we’re glad that he’s now able to share his music with the Hard Rock crowd (on Oct. 15).

The venue was packed when we saw him perform with his newly formed band, composed of percussionist Bo Razon, bassist Soc Mina, drummer Michael Alba, guitarist Leo Mabalot and vocalists Mai Castro and Rowena Michael.

Maybe, a lot of people appreciate the infectious beat of Brazilian music-inspired songs or laidback tunes from the ’70s. But what brought the house down was Toti’s medley of well-loved theme songs.

Almost everybody was engaged in his or her own “Name That Tune” game. One diner insisted that the Oscar-winning song, “Windmills of Your Mind,” was used in the movie “Doctor Zhivago” while we were certain that it was used in “The Thomas Crown Affair.”

The audience likewise applauded Toti’s surprise guests, Mon David and Jacqui Magno, as they sang a piece each and then did a duet later on. People who grew up in the ’70s and ’80s truly miss musical experiences like these.

Musical director

Toti is an acknowledged musical director but Ricky shares that it was when they saw Toti work with Verni Varga in one the singer’s shows that the management of Hard Rock realized that a topnotch artist like Toti should have a slot in the bar-restaurant.

A native of Cagayan de Oro, Toti started his musical career in Manila in 1969 but left the scene in 1978 to hone his skills by playing with world-class musicians in the United States.

He was not disappointed. But, after having had the chance to share the stage with the likes of Bill Cosby, La Toya Jackson, Four Tops, Aretha Franklin, Billy Preston, Tanya Tucker, Sergio Mendes and Brazil ’88 and Captain and Tenille for 20 years, Toti felt it was time to come home—with his American wife and their three kids in tow.

He regularly travels to the States to work, though. Recently, he’s had the opportunity to perform with Andy Williams in a three-night engagement.

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Within the promo period, purchases made using Citibank Credit Cards from non-participating merchants can also be converted to PayLite. Simply visit the Citibank booth at any of the Ayala malls and present your Citibank sales slip.

Hurry! Visit any Ayala mall from October 7 to November 30, 2001!

See posters and inserts for more details.

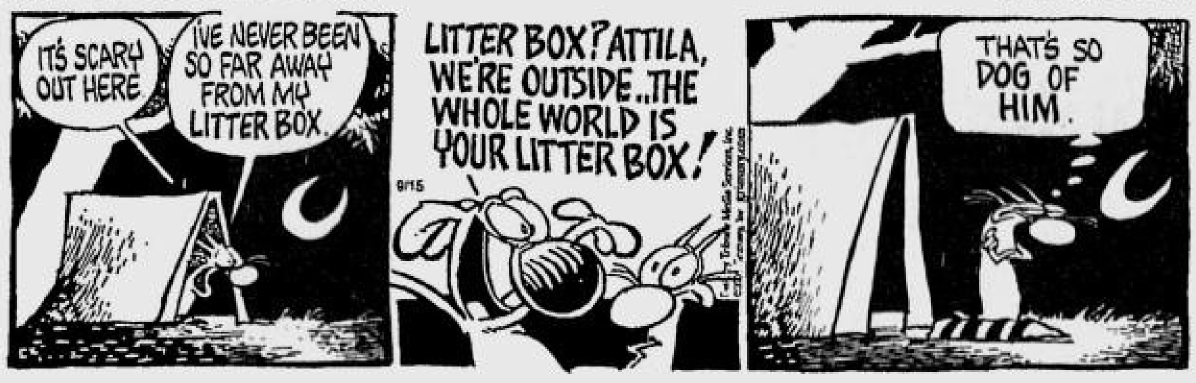
ALABANG TOWN
AYALA CENTER GLORIETTA • GREENBELT
AYALA CENTER CEBU

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.3302, Series of 2001

CITIBANK

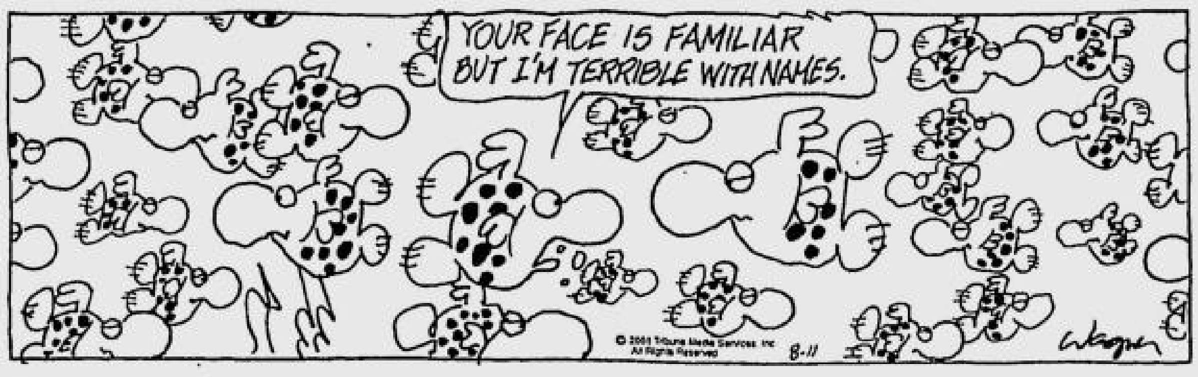
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


IT'S SCARY OUT HERE
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO FAR AWAY FROM MY LITTER BOX.
LITTER BOX? ATTILA, WE'RE OUTSIDE..THE WHOLE WORLD IS YOUR LITTER BOX!
9/15
THAT'S SO DOG OF HIM.

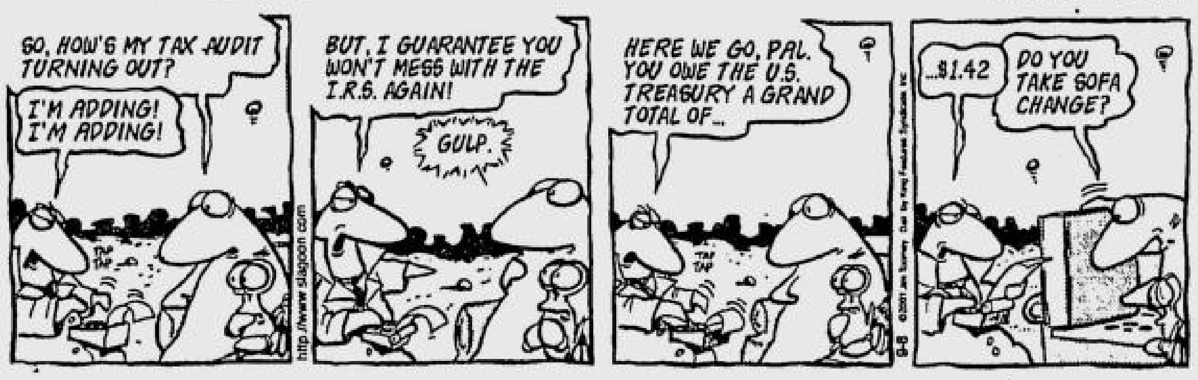
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


YOUR FACE IS FAMILIAR BUT I'M TERRIBLE WITH NAMES.
© 2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved
8-11
Wagner

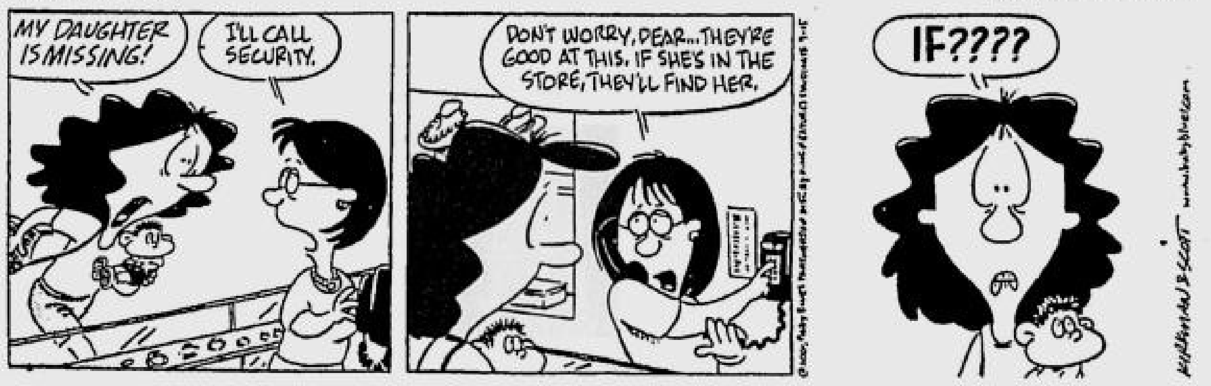
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SO, HOW'S MY TAX AUDIT TURNING OUT?
I'M ADDING! I'M ADDING!
BUT, I GUARANTEE YOU WON'T MESS WITH THE I.R.S. AGAIN!
GULP.
HERE WE GO, PAL. YOU OWE THE U.S. TREASURY A GRAND TOTAL OF...
...$1.42
DO YOU TAKE SOFA CHANGE?
http://www.slagoon.com

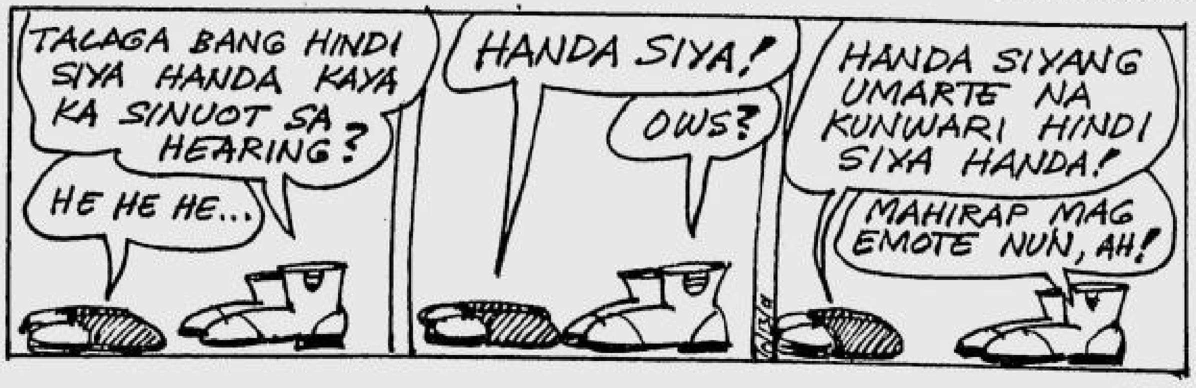
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MY DAUGHTER IS MISSING!
I'LL CALL SECURITY.
DON'T WORRY, DEAR...THEY'RE GOOD AT THIS. IF SHE'S IN THE STORE, THEY'LL FIND HER.
IF????
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
www.babyblues.com

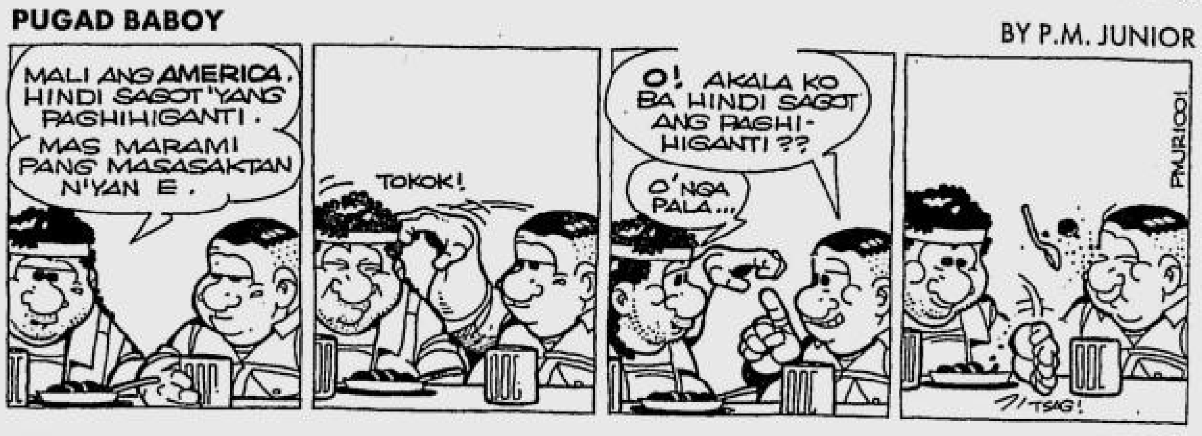
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


TALAGA BANG HINDI SIYA HANDA KAYA KA SINUOT SA HEARING?
HE HE HE...
HANDA SIYA!
OWS?
HANDA SIYANG UMARTE NA KUNWARI HINDI SIYA HANDA!
MAHIRAP MAG EMOTE NUN, AH!

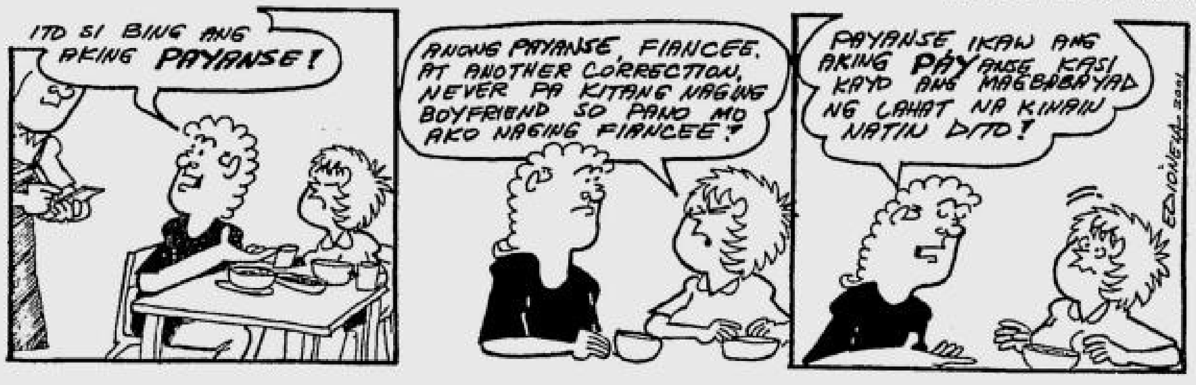
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MALI ANG AMERICA. HINDI SAGOT 'YANG PAGHIHIGANTI.
MAS MARAMI PANG MASASAKTAN N'YAN E.
TOKOK!
O! AKALA KO BA HINDI SAGOT ANG PAGHI-HIGANTI??
O'NGA PALA...
PMJR1001
TSIG!

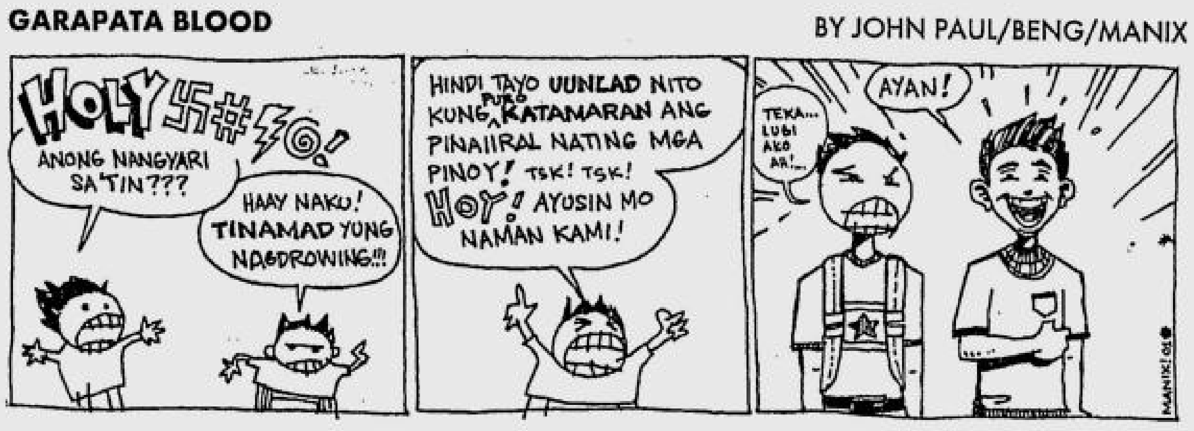
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ITO SI BING ANG AKING PAYANSE!
ANONG PAYANSE, FIANCEE. AT ANOTHER CORRECTION, NEVER PA KITANG NAGING BOYFRIEND SO PANO MO AKO NAGING FIANCEE?
PAYANSE IKAW ANG AKING PAYANSE KASI KAYO ANG MAGBABAYAD NG LAHAT NA KINAIN NATIN DITO!
EDIONELA 2001

GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


HOLY #$%@!
ANONG NANGYARI SA'TIN???
HAAY NAKU! TINAMAD YUNG NAGDROWING!!!
HINDI TAYO UUNLAD NITO KUNG PURO KATAMARAN ANG PINAIIRAL NATING MGA PINOY! TSK! TSK!
HOY! AYUSIN MO NAMAN KAMI!
TEKA... LUBI AKO AH!...
AYAN!
MANIX! 01

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Margaret Thatcher, Paul Simon, Jerry Rice, Marie Osmond, Kelly Preston
Happy Birthday: You will be romantic and dramatic this year. You're eager to turn dreams into reality and will strive for perfection. As an adventurer, you're eager to try new things and do your best, regardless of the consequences. Your numbers: 10, 11, 16, 22, 25, 31

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Sudden romantic encounters will fill your head with possibilities. Don't jump into a relationship quickly. Your energetic persona will make you the center of attention at social gatherings.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Spread the news to others about your ideas and plans. Family may not want to become involved, but an entrepreneur will. Use your obvious talent for detail to come up with something great.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Property deals or other solid investments look good. Don't let relatives get involved in your personal life. You can learn valuable information by observing others.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Opportunities will arise at networking events, but don't be led down the garden path. Be leery of ideas that sound too good as someone may be looking for handouts. Your own ideas stand a better chance of being prosperous.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Difficulties with people you live or work with will cause emotional stress today. Someone who tries to take credit for something you did will anger you. Don't gossip and don't overspend.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take satisfaction in helping a friend who's not feeling well. You need to clear up some important personal papers before the year's end. Don't procrastinate or make unrealistic promises.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If you are in doubt, don't do it. You can't count on others' empty promises. Contracts will not be as lucrative as you think, so read the fine print.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your fight for the less fortunate is unlikely to end in victory. Don't let anger consume you, or you'll leave other important matters unattended. You can't help everyone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The busier you are, the better. Social get-togethers will introduce you to intelligent new friends. Make plans to meet again soon.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Prosperity is likely today. You can make financial gains through behind-the-scenes activities or a venture that will lead to your own small business. You can receive assistance if you discuss your plans with influential people.

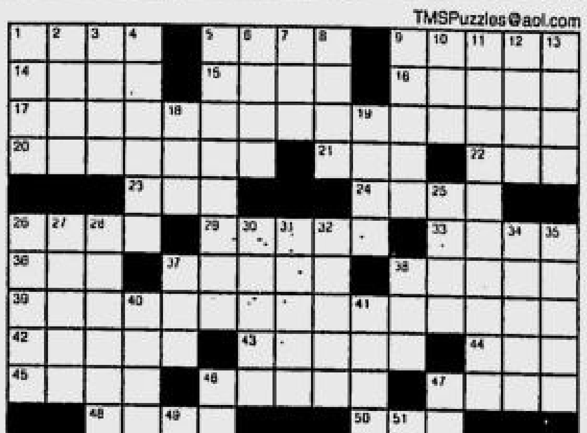
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be on guard. Problems with a business or emotional partner will escalate unless you can remain calm, cool and collected. Arguing won't solve the problem and may make matters worse.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Burn that extra energy by putting in some overtime and earning extra cash. There are plenty of opportunities, so don't waste time or vacillate.

Birthday Baby: You were born with class. You are a perfectionist who demands the best. You are willing to work hard if it will bring returns. You are calculating, creative and cautious.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL

8/29/01

ACROSS
1 Forest denizen
5 Scheme
9 Spry
14 __ podrida
15 Italian beach
16 "__ Sanctum"
17 Musical twosome
20 Dreamer
21 Take to court
22 NYSE competition
23 Fate
24 Blue pencil
26 Act dejected
29 Spoke wildly
33 Gulp down
36 Vanity
37 Gospels' source material
38 Della of song
39 Musical threesome
42 Assessed
43 Gossip column bits
44 Terminate
45 Arabian sultanate
46 Acquire knowledge
47 Rim
48 Soft drink
50 NYC subway line
52 Food scrap
54 Literary snippets
56 Long-legged shorebirds
60 Musical foursome
63 __ Haute, IN
64 Gardener, at times
65 Part of Q.E.D.
66 Tobacco ovens
67 Facility
68 Bribes

DOWN
1 Tip one's hat
2 First lady of scat
3 Verve
4 Baby's toy
5 Metal breastplate
6 Dryer residue
7 Strange
8 Throw
9 Broadcast
10 Wildebeest
11 Collected
12 Stool parts
13 Scottish Gaelic
18 Lao Tzu's religion
19 Signaled
25 "New Jack City" co-star
26 Paris subway
27 Old Irish alphabet
28 Mediocre versifiers
30 Texas A&M student
31 Distant view
32 Food consumer
34 Employing
35 Rock full of crystals
37 Cover
38 Hosp. workers
40 Vegas gambling game
41 Indiscriminate consumer
46 Bowling alley
47 Engraves
49 Titled ladies
51 Decay
52 Director Preminger
53 Satellite of Saturn
55 Tennis great
56 War god
57 Architect Saarinen
58 Snare
59 Fast fliers: abbr.
61 Gallery draw
62 Scarf like a snake

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

L	E	T	S	■	D	E	S	I	■	E	L	A	N	D
I	C	E	T	■	O	V	E	R	■	L	O	R	R	E
A	L	M	A	■	C	E	R	O	■	L	O	C	A	L
R	A	P	I	D	T	R	A	N	S	I	T	■	■	■
S	T	E	R	E	O	■	■	S	O	P	■	O	H	S
■	■	■	■	F	R	E	T	■	S	T	E	P	U	P
E	T	T	A	■	E	A	R	S	■	I	R	E	N	E
Q	U	I	C	K	D	R	A	W	M	C	G	R	A	W
U	L	T	R	A	■	N	C	A	A	■	S	A	N	S
A	L	L	E	N	S	■	E	Y	R	E	■	■	■	■
L	E	E	■	G	I	S	■	■	A	N	E	M	I	A
■	■	■	H	A	S	T	Y	P	U	D	D	I	N	G
L	E	M	U	R	■	A	U	L	D	■	G	A	L	A
E	R	A	T	O	■	F	L	E	E	■	A	M	E	N
S	A	Y	S	O	■	F	E	A	R	■	R	I	T	A

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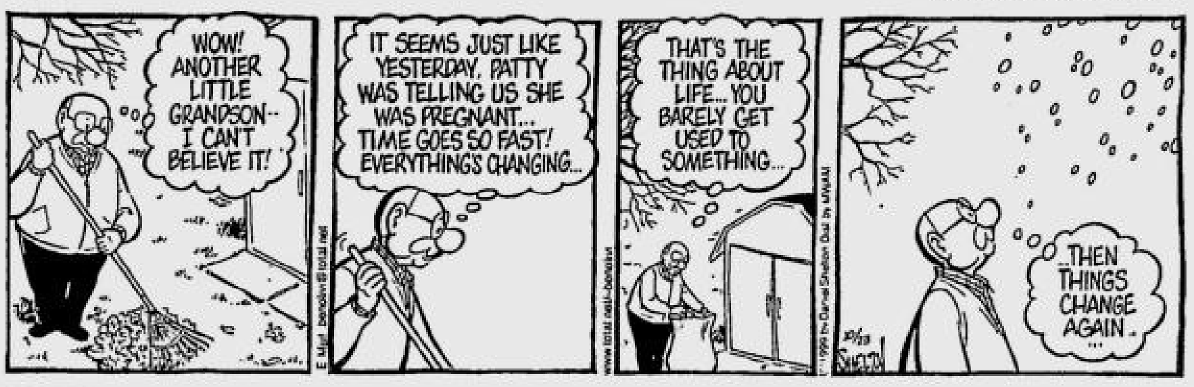
8/28/01

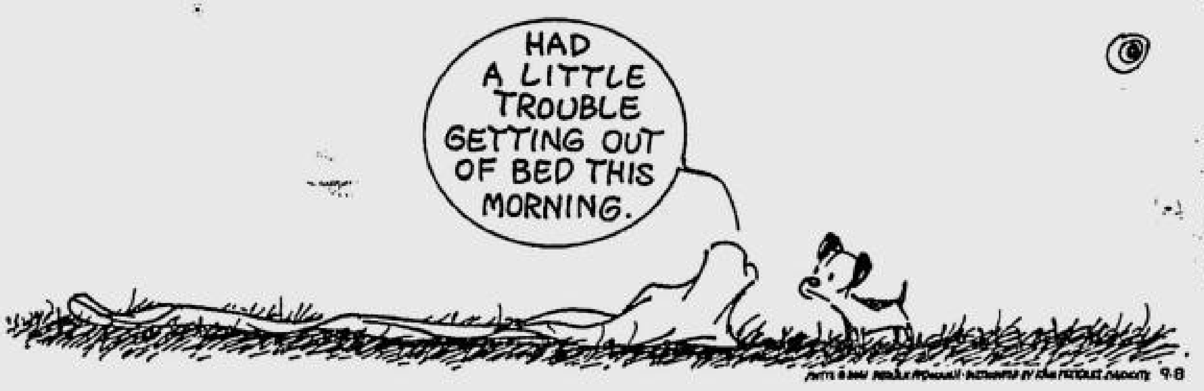
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WOW! ANOTHER LITTLE GRANDSON-- I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
IT SEEMS JUST LIKE YESTERDAY, PATTY WAS TELLING US SHE WAS PREGNANT... TIME GOES SO FAST! EVERYTHING'S CHANGING...
THAT'S THE THING ABOUT LIFE... YOU BARELY GET USED TO SOMETHING...
...THEN THINGS CHANGE AGAIN...
SHELTON

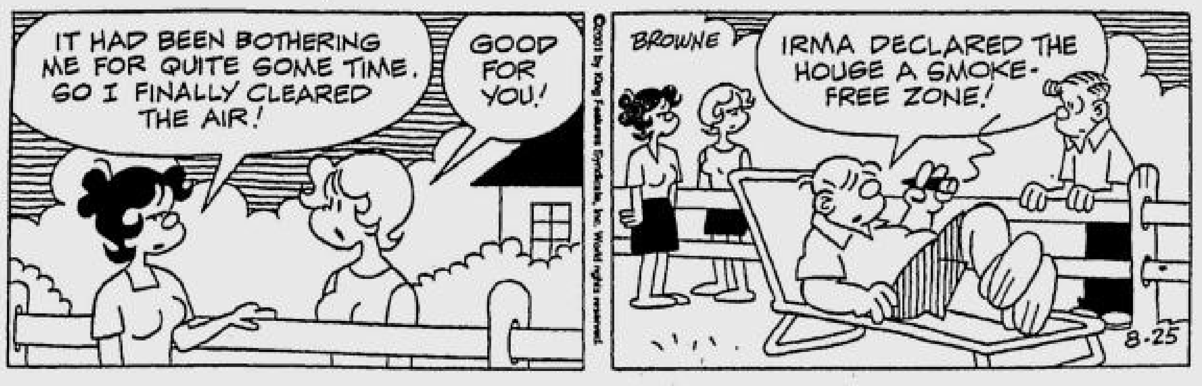
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HAD A LITTLE TROUBLE GETTING OUT OF BED THIS MORNING.
9-8

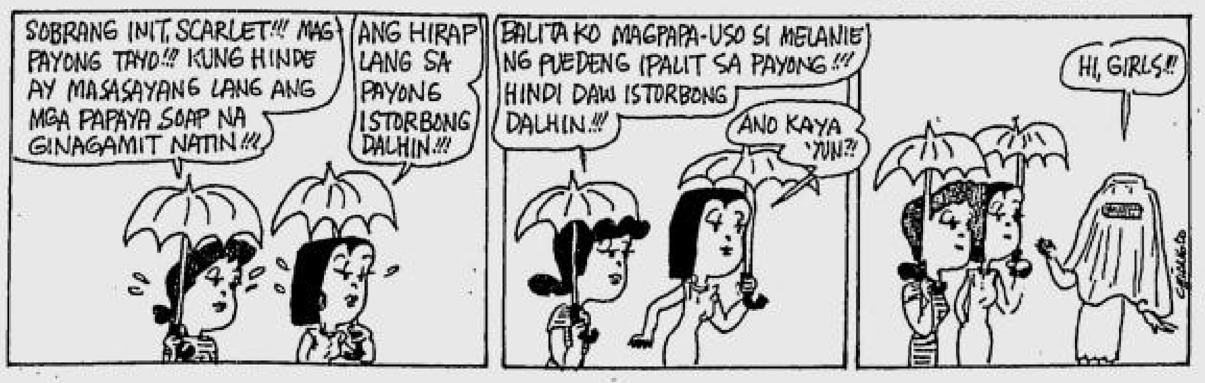
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


IT HAD BEEN BOTHERING ME FOR QUITE SOME TIME. SO I FINALLY CLEARED THE AIR!
GOOD FOR YOU!
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
BROWNE
IRMA DECLARED THE HOUSE A SMOKE-FREE ZONE!
8-25

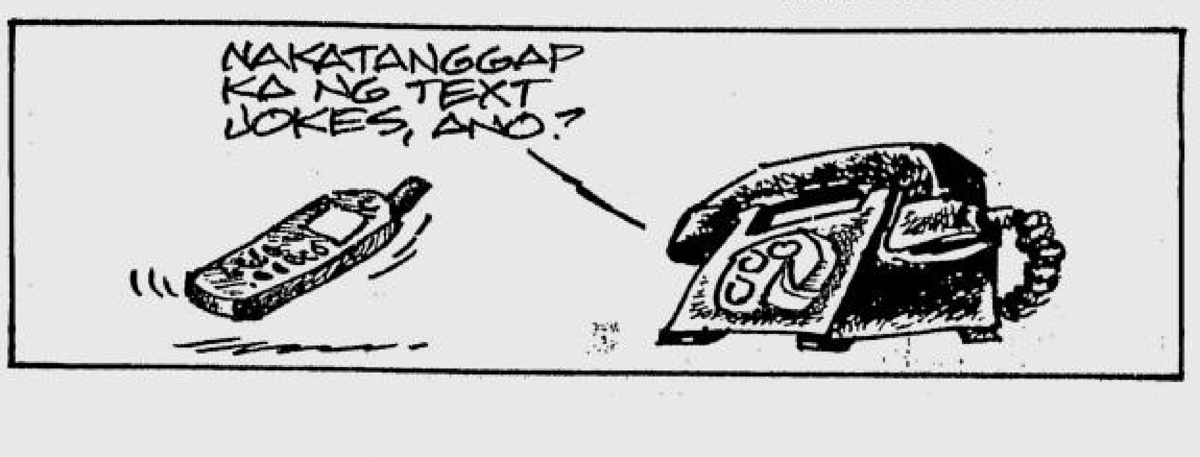
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SOBRANG INIT, SCARLET!!! MAG PAYONG TAYO!!! KUNG HINDE AY MASASAYANG LANG ANG MGA PAPAYA SOAP NA GINAGAMIT NATIN!!!
ANG HIRAP LANG SA PAYONG ISTORBONG DALHIN!!!
BALITA KO MAGPAPA-USO SI MELANIE NG PUEDENG IPALIT SA PAYONG!!! HINDI DAW ISTORBONG DALHIN!!!
ANO KAYA 'YUN?!
HI, GIRLS!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


NAKATANGGAP KA NG TEXT JOKES, ANO?

Isabel Granada stars in 'Aagos Ang Dugo'

By Edmund L. Sicam

MANY have the mistaken notion that former child star Isabel Granada, now 24 years old, started tackling mature roles when she starred in "Halik ng Sirena." Many forget that she played a young prostitute in the controversial "Ligaya Ang Itawag Mo sa Akin." In that Rosanna Roces starrer, Isabel had to do a rape scene. It took her a month to decide to make the movie. Before she accepted the role, she wanted to make sure that her delicate sequences would not be as revealing as most rape scenes.

Script

Most of the time, the director follows the script that is discussed during the story conference. Once, however, she got the shock of her life when the director told her she had to undress, something that was never discussed earlier. She resisted, of course. The director tried to have his way but Isabel managed to put her foot down.

It seems she can't get away from sexy scenes. Even on television, she says, she's always a rape victim, although of course, the scenes are not as revealing as those in the movies.

GRANADA. Can't seem to get away from sexy scenes.

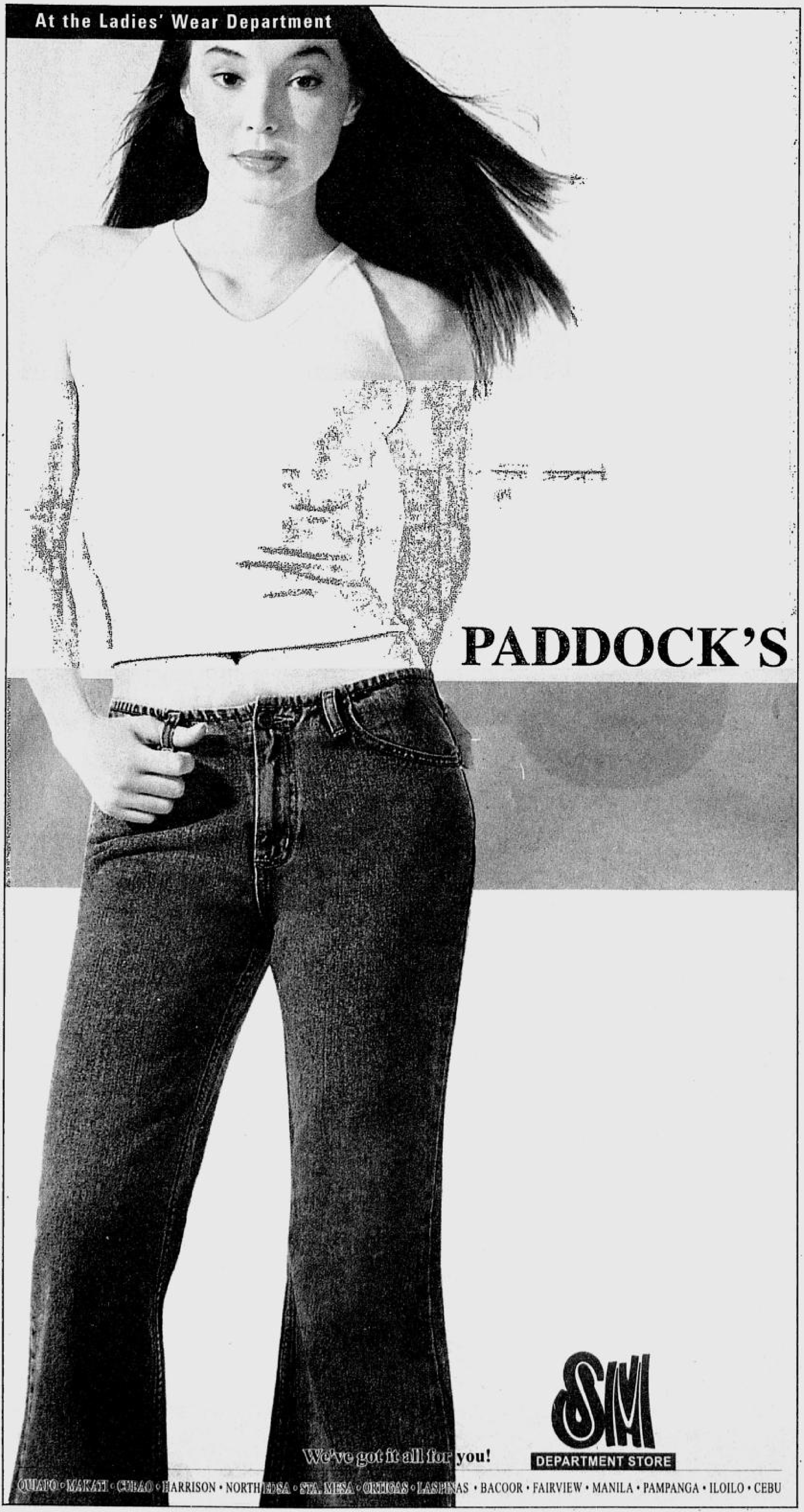
Next week, Isabel stars in "Aagos Ang Dugo" with Gardo Verzosa, who frequently appears in daring movies, including those that the actress would probably hesitate to star in. We asked her if she had misgivings about appearing with Gardo, since this was their first team-up. Isabel said her apprehensions disappeared after she met Gardo, whom she considers a gentleman.

Moralists

Besides, when they shot the movie last year, the moralists were up in arms against Armida Siguion-Reyna's MTRCB so director Mauro Gia-Samonte toned down the sex scenes. Isabel was more concerned about the conditions on location. The movie was shot in the jungles of Quezon, and she had to deal with leeches and a rugged terrain. On one shoot, she was drenched in mud at four in the morning.

That's all part of the job, according to Isabel, who's been in show biz since she was seven. She doesn't think she lost her childhood because she looked at her show biz work as a game. Unlike other child stars, she managed the transition to adulthood smoothly. She says singing helped her a lot in the growing-up process.

ISABEL/P. D7


At the Ladies' Wear Department
PADDOCK'S
We've got it all for you!
SM
DEPARTMENT STORE
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU

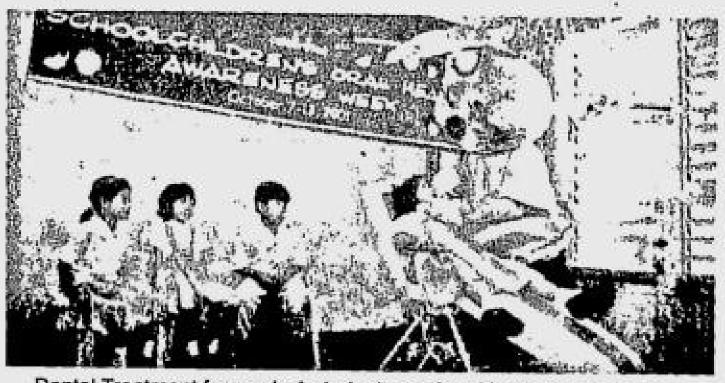
Dr. Rabbit's Corner
by
Colgate

Did you know that dental caries or tooth decay has been the number one health problem of Filipino school children for several years? This is a very crucial concern that should be addressed because the state of one's oral health greatly affects the total health and well-being of a person.

Bad oral health can affect us in many ways. For example, the pain from toothache or swollen gums decreases our appetite for food while those who have lost most of their teeth live with a limited diet intake and poor digestion. Moreover, cavities and other oral health problems also lessen our sensitivity to different tastes and can even make communication and hearing difficult. Whereas if you have good oral health, not only can you enjoy and savor the food you eat, your bright smile also projects a healthy outlook in life that is highly infectious which will enable you to win friends instantly.

Good oral habits and practices should be inculcated in children at a young age because they need to stay healthy in order to absorb what they learn in school and to properly interact with others. Poor oral health hampers these important areas in development. Children with dental problems are less attentive, less participative, and suffer some degree of malnourishment.

As the world leader in oral care, **Colgate** is taking a pro-active role in promoting oral health care awareness among school children. This week, **Colgate** is actively supporting the nationwide celebration of the Schoolchildren's Oral Health Awareness Week. The ever-friendly Dr. Rabbit visited some schools and here are a few snap shots of the many activities:



Dental Treatment for grade 1 students rendered by the local chapters of the Philippine Dental Association

Toothbrushing and mouthrinsing drills for grades 1 to 3 students.

Reinforcement of BSBF messages through classroom discussions

This nationwide observance is part of Department of Education Health Month and National Children's Month. And **Colgate** has expressed their support for the Dep Ed's vision through the *Bright Smiles, Bright Futures* Oral Health Education Program. This program aims to help Filipino schoolchildren overcome dental problems through proper oral health education and to inculcate proper oral health habits and practices in them.

The *Bright Smiles, Bright Futures* Global Oral Health Education Program is currently implemented in the grades 1-3 curriculum of public elementary schools nationwide since 1997. Close to four million Filipino children, and over 50 million youths around the world have already benefited from the program.

Spoken in 30 languages worldwide, the *Bright Smiles, Bright Futures* program remains consistent on its four prime oral health messages:

1. Brush your teeth thoroughly at least twice a day
2. Use a fluoride toothpaste
3. Limit snacking on sweet and sticky foods
4. See a dentist regularly

NEW IMPROVED
Colgate
Maximum Cavity Protection

Bright Smiles, Bright Futures™

TALK 'N TEXT™
GSM
&
ALCATEL
invite you to
Just buy an
Alcatel One Touch 300*
to join the raffle!
₱3,990 only
GEAR UP AND GO!
GO FOR A SPORTS ADVENTURE!
TALK 'N TEXT
Phones not shown in actual size • Colors subject to availability
GRAND PRIZE
MITSUBISHI
ADVENTURE
ADVENTURE
300 EXCITING PRIZES TO BE WON!
BILLIARDS PACKAGES • JVC BOOMBOXES • SHIMANO MOUNTAIN BIKES
NIKE WATCHES • NIKE EYEWEAR • NIKE GEAR • COLEMAN COOLERS
HARROWS DART SETS • SONY SPORTS RADIOS
TOBY'S BILLIARDS CUE STICKS WITH CASE

Actual appearance of prizes may vary from photos

Joining is easy!

1. Simply buy a brand new **Alcatel One Touch 300 phone kit simlocked to the SMART Network via Piltel's Talk 'N Text*** from authorized Talk 'N Text dealers and outlets. Each purchase entitles you and the seller to a joint raffle coupon which can be found inside the phone kit.

2. Completely fill-out the raffle coupon with the ff. information: your name, address, signature, Talk 'N Text mobile number and the IMEI number found inside the unit. The "seller" should also fill-out the "seller" portion with his/her name, contact number, signature, dealer or store name and address.

3. Drop the raffle coupon portion at any dropbox located in designated TSI, SMART or MOBILINE outlets nationwide.

4. Promo period is from August 8, 2001 to October 15, 2001.

5. There will be two preliminary draws and one grand raffle draw. The first preliminary draw will be held on September 3, 2001; the second on September 28, 2001; and the grand draw on October 18, 2001. All draws will be held at 3PM on the said dates at the 27/F, Smart Tower, 6799 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. A DTI representative will be present during all the draws.

6. Deadline for submission of entries will be the closing of store hours on the following dates:
For the 1st-preliminary draw: August 30, 2001
For the 2nd preliminary draw: September 23, 2001
For the grand draw: October 15, 2001

7. Both the buyer and seller get a chance to win prizes.

8. The prizes for the buyers are as follows:

Grand Draw:
1st Prize : One (1) MITSUBISHI Adventure Super Sport
2nd Prizes : Two (2) Billiards Packages
3rd Prizes : Three (3) JVC Boomboxes
4th Prizes : Three (3) SHIMANO Mountain Bikes
5th Prizes : Four (4) COLEMAN Coolers
6th Prizes : Twenty (20) NIKE Steel Agent Super Watches
7th Prizes : Ten (10) NIKE TW9-Tiger Woods Eyewear
8th Prizes : Ten (10) NIKE Uniballer Bags with Leather Basketball
9th Prizes : Five (5) HARROWS Dart Sets
10th Prizes : Fifty (50) SONY Sports Radios
11th Prizes : Twenty (20) TOBY'S Billiards Cue Sticks with case

First Preliminary Draw:
1st Prize : One (1) Billiards Package
2nd Prize : One (1) JVC Boombox
3rd Prize : One (1) SHIMANO Mountain Bike
4th Prizes : Three (3) COLEMAN Coolers
5th Prizes : Ten (10) NIKE Triax Junior Watches
6th Prizes : Ten (10) NIKE Interchangeable Eyewear
7th Prizes : Ten (10) NIKE Duffel Bags
8th Prizes : Five (5) HARROWS Dart Sets
9th Prizes : Twenty-five (25) SONY Sports Radios
10th Prizes : Twenty (20) TOBY'S Billiards Cue Sticks with case

Second Preliminary Draw:
1st Prize : One (1) Billiards Package
2nd Prize : One (1) JVC Boombox
3rd Prize : One (1) SHIMANO Mountain Bike
4th Prizes : Three (3) COLEMAN Coolers
5th Prizes : Ten (10) NIKE Triax Junior Watches
6th Prizes : Ten (10) NIKE Interchangeable Eyewear
7th Prizes : Ten (10) NIKE Duffel Bags
8th Prizes : Five (5) HARROWS Dart Sets
9th Prizes : Twenty-five (25) SONY Sports Radios
10th Prizes : Twenty (20) TOBY'S Billiards Cue Sticks with case

9. The prizes for the sellers are as follows:

Grand Draw:
1st Prize : P300,000.00 (1 winner)
2nd Prizes : P30,000.00 (2 winners)
3rd Prizes : P3,000.00 (125 winners)

First Preliminary Draw:
1st Prize : P30,000.00 (1 winner)
2nd Prizes : P3,000.00 (85 winners)

Second Preliminary Draw:
1st Prize : P30,000.00 (1 winner)
2nd Prizes : P3,000.00 (85 winners)

10. The names of the raffle draw winners will be announced via major national newspapers. Winners will also be notified via registered mail and text message to the Talk 'N Text mobile phone number listed on the raffle coupon.

11. Prizes are not convertible to cash.

12. All prizes are tax-free. Alcatel Philippines, Inc. will shoulder the 20% tax of prizes with values exceeding P10,000.00.

13. During the preliminary draws, each person can only win once. If a name is drawn more than once, the winner gets the prize with the higher value. Winners of the first preliminary draw will be excluded from the second draw. However, non-winners will be eligible to join.

14. In the grand draw, all winning and non-winning entries in any of the preliminary draws will be included and eligible to win any of the prizes.

15. Prizes can be redeemed within sixty (60) calendar days from announcement and receipt of notification. Winners can claim their prizes from the nearest branch of Acabar Marketing International stated on the registered mail upon presentation of the following: the winning raffle stub, valid ID with picture and signature (e.g. driver's license, passport, school ID, company ID), Alcatel OT300 unit and Talk 'N Text SIM Card that match those indicated in the raffle coupon. Prizes unclaimed within 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited with prior approval from the DTI.

16. The winner of the Mitsubishi Adventure can get the original certificate which will be awarded at the nearest Mitsubishi dealer. The winner will shoulder the cost of LTO registration and other documentation.

17. Employees of Alcatel Philippines, Inc., including their manpower and personnel; PILTEL/SMART/TSI and their advertising and merchandising agencies, as well as participating outlets and dealers, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the raffle intended for buyers.

See flyers for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2350, Series of 2001

Available at authorized Talk 'N Text dealers and outlets nationwide

Yan ang galing... without overspending!

POWERED BY THE SMART NETWORK

For inquiries call the Piltel Customer Hotline (02) 848-8888, (032) 232-3200 (Visayas/Mindanao) or 15003 from your Talk 'N Text cellphone.

Outstanding theatrical presentations remembered

GOQUINGCO'S book engenders a revived optimism for all the good things that can still be done in Philippine theater in the years to come.

By Nestor U. Torre

OUR friend Joan gifted us with a copy of Leonor Orosa-Goquinco's new book, "Curtain Call: Selected Reviews, 1957-2001" and we spent an entire afternoon savoring its contents.

Grand repository

We suppose the book will be many things to many people, but for us it's a grand repository of some of the highlights of the Philippine performing scene that we ourselves have witnessed and treasured for more than 40 years.

So, aside from reading each review for its notes on particular productions and performances, we looked for reviews of productions that we had found particularly memorable.

Thus, Leonor's compilation of reviews has brought back beautiful recollections of some of the productions that have made Philippine theater so dynamic, despite the many hindrances that have kept it from its sustained flowering.

Great idea

It was also a great idea to start the book with a review of a show from the year 2000, and then to move back through the years and decades, until the start of Leonor's reviewing career (1957) was reached.

This made the book a vehicle for a sequential trip back to our theatrical past, rekindling choice dramatic passions along the way. After reading the book, we find ourselves with a renewed admiration for Philippine theater, and a revived optimism for all the good things that can still be done in the years to come.

These theatrical gems we recollect, not in tranquility, but with remembered excitement and passion:

Tragedy

1993: Floy Quintos' "And St. Louis Loves Filipinos," for its searing historical insights. As Goquinco's review puts it, "Above all else, the play showcases the tragedy of a once-honored warrior-prince of his tribe who, induced into journeying to the St. Louis Exposition in 1904, ends up a bum on the US streets, broken, lost, defeated by commercialism and indifference, booze his only solace and companion. It is ultimately the deconstruction of a noble savage once-upon-a-time honored, respected, feared."

1988: Ryan Cayabyab and Joey Reyes' "Katy!," one of the most acclaimed original Filipino musicals ever staged. Goquinco observes: "Ultimately, not only does this musical amount to a history of jazz in the Philippines. It also dramatizes the sharp contrast between Katy dela Cruz's quiet, valiant heroism and the loud, flashy theatrics and hollow "patriotism" of some of our public figures and grandstand players. It constitutes, too, a timely, much-needed rebuke to them."

Testament

1975: Nick Joaquin's "Portrait of the Artist as Filipino." The fact that the play is still being staged to this day, and may soon be filmed anew, is a testament to its power and worth. Goquinco: "Not only is this play an elegy, or better still an ode, to the past and its glories . . . It is . . . a challenging, thought-provoking theater piece on the value of the human soul . . ."

1975: Orlando Nadres' "Hanggang Dito na Lamang, at Maraming Salamat." Goquinco: "With keen participation, sympathetic insight and deft skill, the playwright plumbs the depths of two souls—each a member of the (gay) 'Confraternity.' Heartfelt felicitations for this compassionate look into these 'social deviants'—'deviants' in behavior but nevertheless remaining members of the human race."

1975: "Sining Kambayoka's "Mga Kuwentong Maranaw." We can still see in our mind's eye the highlights of this wonderfully exotic and creative production. Goquinco: "What an overview of Maranao folk literature and other art forms this production amounts to, what a novel and creative way in which to conserve and enrich the life and culture of a region!"

Artistic harmony

1971: "Prinsipe Baldovino." This was Rolando Tinio's "all-star" presentation for the inauguration of the CCP Little Theater (even the bit roles were played by major theater luminaries). Goquinco: "Mr. Tinio's practice of directly overseeing little details of all phases of production—sets, costumes, lighting, etc., makes for strong artistic harmony and unity . . ."

Thanks, Leonor, for the beautiful theater memories. Thanks, too, for citing some of the productions with which we've been involved—"Magnificat," "Katy!," "Himala," "The Great Refusal," "Prinsipe Baldovino," "The Onyx Wolf," etc. Through your book, they live again!

Jaya juggles life's ups and downs with ease and grace

By Ricky T. Gallardo

VERY few artists have managed their ups and downs as well as Jaya Ramsey.

When she first came back to the Philippines to pursue a singing career, the diminutive, "hype-allergic" singer had an instant barrage of successes.

Bumpy ride

Lately, however, Jaya has been experiencing a bumpy ride. Her new album "Unleashed," is taking its time climbing up the charts and has not yet produced a hit. Likewise, her recent big concert at the Araneta Coliseum did not pull in the expected number of people.

But Jaya remains unperturbed, and she's not about to suddenly embrace the victim-mentality-escapist theory, either. "I think these are my searching years. I'm asking a lot of questions while learning to accept things as they come," she says.

The brown soul princess adds that artistic growth is at the top of her list of priorities, citing her new album as an example. Jaya reveals that the CD took so long to finish (almost 18 months!) because she made it a point to experiment.

In her "Unleashed" album are cover songs you wouldn't imagine Jaya singing, such as John Lennon's "Love" and Fra Lippo Lippi's "Beauty and Madness," plus danceable tunes that border on club music and progressive rock.

The singer points out that the commercial factor should not be the measure of genuine artistic success. She believes that, superstar or not, everyone is just a working musician. Some get lucky, she concedes, but that does not merit being ensconced on a pedestal.

Working principle

Jaya adds, " I've been put on such a high pedestal that, if something doesn't work out the way they expect, people begin thinking that I'm losing steam. But my working principle is this: If it doesn't work, I don't lose my head. I just move on to the next."

And one of the new moves Jaya is making is a show called "Mocca Jaya" directed by Rico Mortel for Maximedia. To be held at the Onstage Theater on Oct. 19 and 26, the concept show will feature songs from Jaya's early jazz influences like Anita Baker, Angela Bofill, Basia, Tuck and Patti. She will also render songs by new inspirations such as Destiny's Child and Paula Cole.

"I hope many people can watch this show. But that is not what I pray for. The only thing I tell God when I talk to Him is, 'Thank You, Lord. I have been broken before but now I'm okay.'"

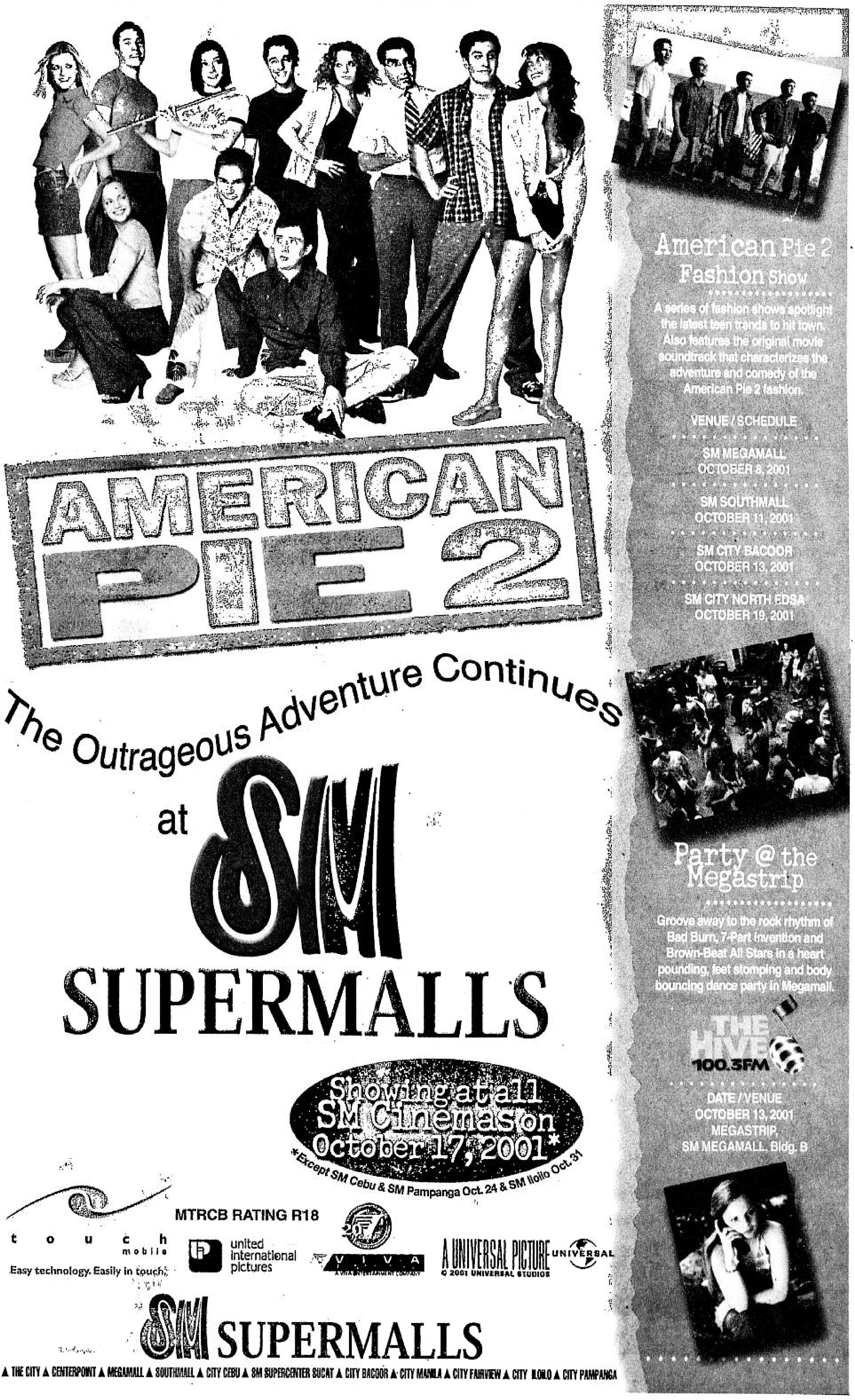
JAYA. Focusing on artistic growth.

Isabel . . . (From page D5)

Flying

While she's very keen on acting, Isabel has another serious interest—flying. She wants to be a licensed pilot and fly a 747 someday. She has not yet flown a plane, but plans to start working with single-engine aircraft.

Her interest in flying must have stemmed from her dad, who took up aeronautics. A female pilot is a rarity in our airline industry but Isabel is determined to show that she can be as good as a male pilot. We asked Gardo if he would ride on a plane piloted by Isabel, and the actor said yes, without hesitation!



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MONTAGE

Jaya performs at Onstage on Oct. 19 and 26

JAYA continues her concert series at Onstage Greenbelt onoxt. 19 and 26. Showtime is at 9 p.m. The soul singer is expected to sing her hits like "DahilTanging Ikaw" and "Dahil Ba Sa Kanya" as well as cuts from her popular albums "Honesty" and "Jaya in the Raw."

Mitch Valdes in a golden show

Mitch Valdes shares her glorious years as an artist, lover and woman in "Mitch Valdes—Golden Girl...Diva-h?" presented by Maximedia at Onstage Greenbelt on Oct. 13, 20 and 27. Mitch has made live audiences laugh with shows like "Rock Da Vote" which also featured Jon Santos, Fe de los Reyes and Nanette Inventor and "Tit for Tat" and "Tic Tac Two," also with Nanette. Call 813-8999.

Hyperbeat is back

Fresh from a stint in Japan, the Hyperbeat band is back to fire up the lounge scene once more with their energetic music. The band, composed of seasoned musicians, among them members of the famous Cruz musical clan, performs a repertoire of '70s, '80s and '90s sounds, rock and roll and swing.

This month, the group brings its music to Dish at Rockwell (Mondays), the Conservatory, Manila Peninsula (Wednesdays), Siete Pecados, Westin Philippine Plaza (Thursdays), Chatterbox Galleria (Fridays) and The Conservatory (Saturdays).

Eraserheads at Hard Rock

The Eraserheads performs at the Hard Rock Cafe on Oct. 15 and 29. The show combines concert elements that the band hasn't tried before. The E-heads will render their performance partly unplugged and partly electronica.

Then on Oct. 25, The Dawn spearheads HRC's Oktoberfest celebration by performing the band's greatest hits unplugged.

Side A whips up a grand Saturday night party on Oct. 27. The concert is a commemorative show of Side A's current album "Platinum." All shows start at 9:30 p.m. Call 893-4661 to 63.

'Three To Tango' on Cinemax

The ultimate love triangle is a tango for three as Matthew Perry ("Friends"), Neve Campbell ("Party OF Five"), and Dylan McDermott ("The Practice") team up in the offbeat romantic comedy "Three To Tango."

Oscar Novak (Perry) is an architect desperate to receive a $90 million commission from a wealthy Chicago businessman, Charles Newman (McDermott) who agrees to help him out on one condition: Oscar is to spy on Newman's mistress—the beautiful Amy (Campbell), to make sure that she doesn't fool around with her ex-boyfriend-stud Kevin. Oscar's bumbling attempts at surveillance fails and he develops a crush on Amy. Will he now risk his career for the woman he cannot have?

"Three To Tango," airs on Cinemax, Oct. 14 at 9 p.m. Other playdates are Oct. 20 at 11 p.m., Oct. 25 at 11:30 a.m. and 10:30 p.m., and Oct. 29 at 7:15 p.m.

Gabby Eigenmann now a recording artist

If you've been wondering where Gabby Eigenmann has been these last few months, wonder no more—the former teen idol has been busy preparing his debut album under Neo Records.

Gabby, son of award-winning actor Mark Gil (and grandson of Eddie Mesa and Rosemarie Gil), recently launched his debut album "Loving" at the Megastrip of SM Megamall.

The album, which features 12 songs by top composers and arrangers, includes cuts like "I'll Be Here For You" (Mon Espia), "I Remember You" and "As You Sleep" (Lisa Dy and Chat Zamora), "Startin" (Christine Bendebel), "To Be Near You" (Arnel de Pano), and the remake of "Let Me In," originally popularized by jazz singer and musician Mike Francis. (*Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam*)

VALDES. In her "Golden Girl" show, she shares her glorious years as artist, lover and woman (ahem).

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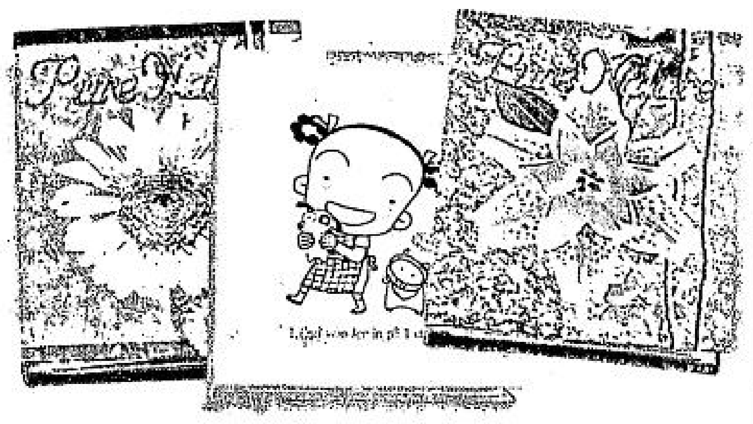

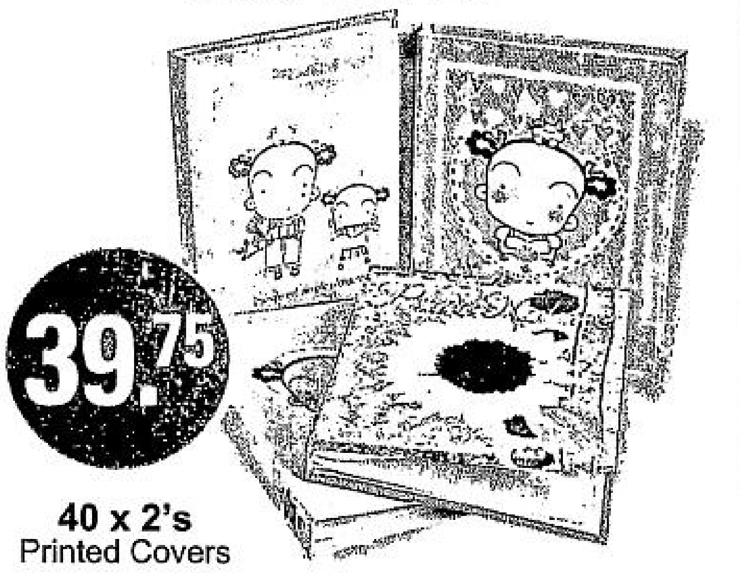

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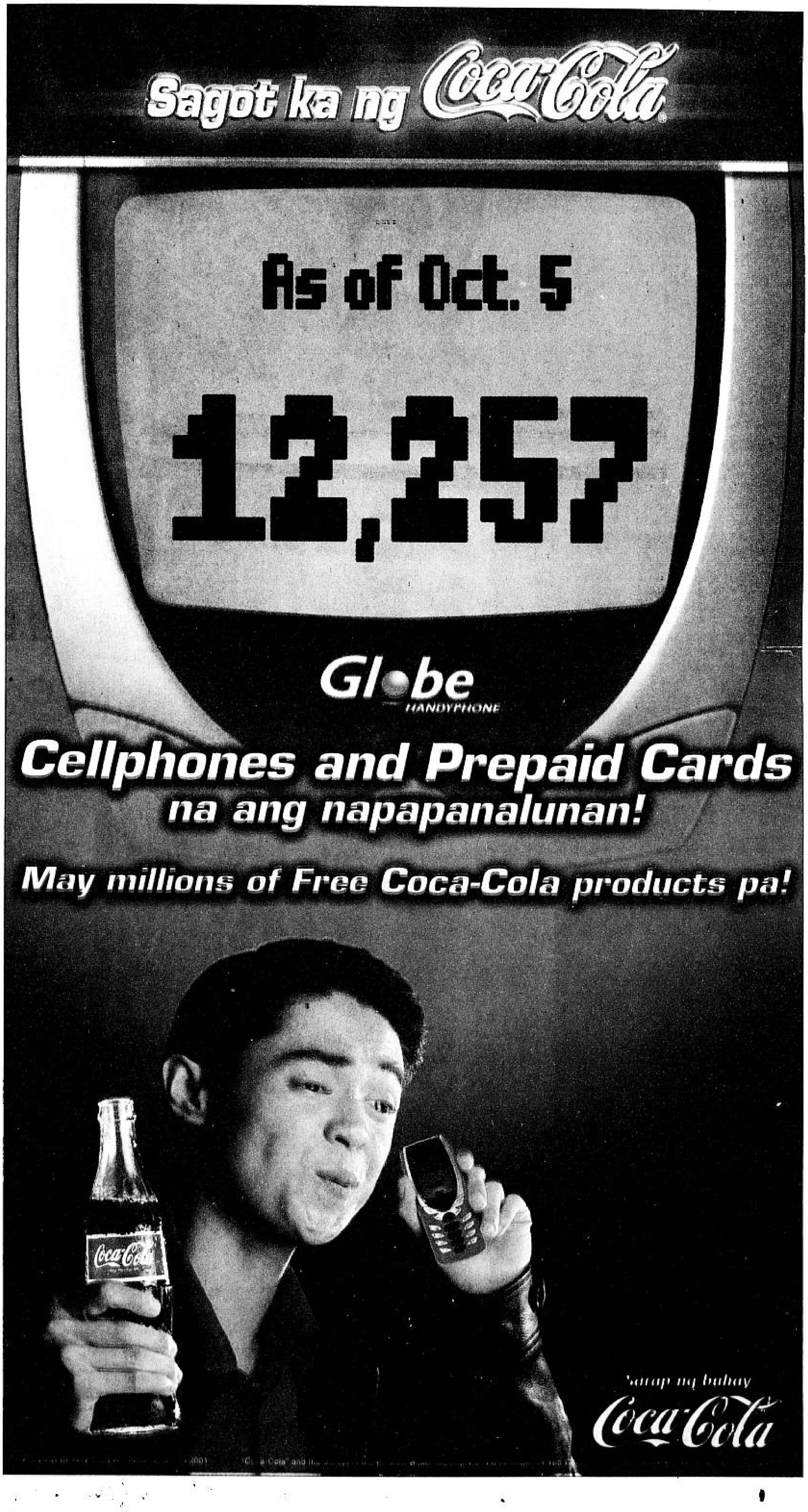

Saturday SPECIAL

GHOSTS OF HOLLYWOOD PAST

Rush of remakes follows well-worn path to theaters

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—Let's see, Cameron Crowe's upcoming "Vanilla Sky" is a reinvention of the Spanish thriller "Open Your Eyes," with Penelope Cruz reprising the role she played in the original.

PENELOPE Cruz stars in a reinvention of her own movie from Spain.

This summer's "Planet of the Apes" was a reimagining—not a remake, says director Tim Burton—of the 1968 sci-fi hit. "Down to Earth" updated "Heaven Can Wait," itself a remake of "Here Comes Mr. Jordan."

Umpteenth interpretations

"The Mummy Returns" and "Dr. Dolittle 2" were sequels to remakes, while "102 Dalmatians" was a sequel to a live-action remake of an animated movie. "The Musketeer" and "The Count of Monte Cristo" will be Hollywood's umpteenth interpretations of those Alexandre Dumas classics.

Fresh off his best director Oscar win, Steven Soderbergh revisits "Ocean's Eleven," the 1960s casino-robbery flick that starred Frank Sinatra and friends. H.G. Wells' great-grandson Simon Wells is directing a new adaptation of "The Time Machine." And from the people who brought you "Little Nicky" comes "Deeds," with Adam Sandler channeling the spirit of Frank Capra in a remake of "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town."

Purists

Some remakes backfire, notably a shot-by-shot copy of "Psycho" that bombed in 1998 and of

RUSH/p.E2

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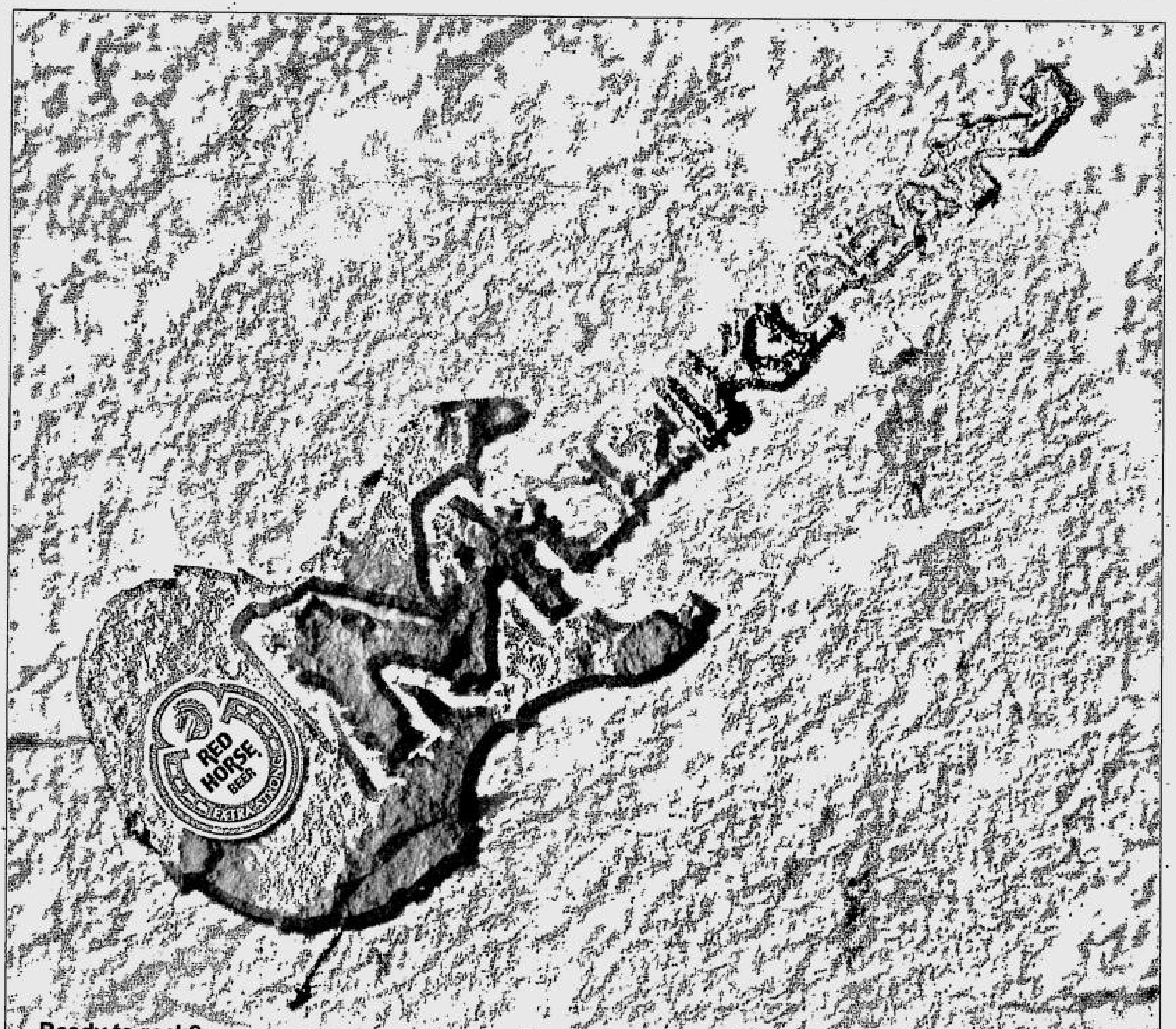

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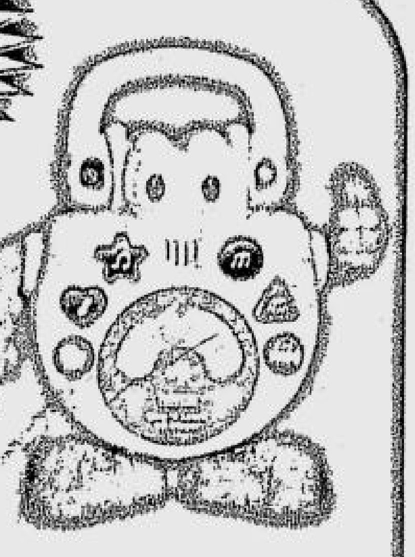

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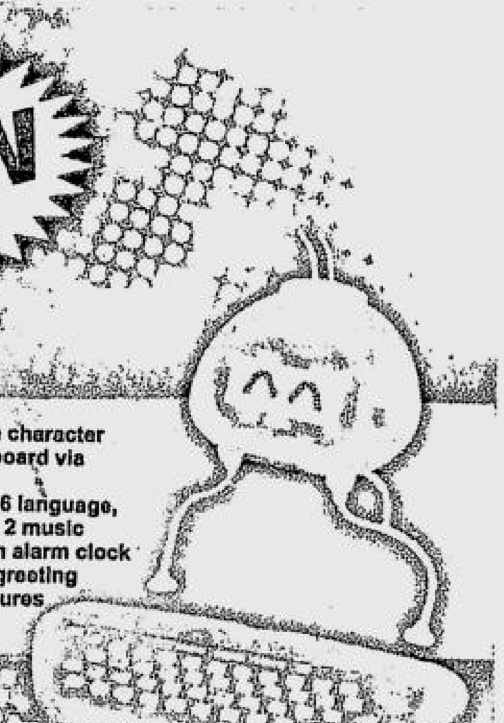

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New 'infotainment' shows on ABC-5

THE FUSION of information and entertainment is a prized goal of "responsible" television. Information alone is well-intentioned but can turn off viewers, while silly entertainment without substance can turn the people's brains into fluff.

Combination

So, TV people him for a combination of fun and meaningful content, and this mix has been given the rather ungainly, Siamese-twin designation, "infotainment."

In a way, this is similar to another experiment at a fusion of diverse elements on TV, the combination of drama and comedy known by the even more unfortunate pushme-pullyou term: "dramedy."

Attempts at "dramedy" have never worked because it's awkward to play for comedy for much of a show, and then suddenly turn "serious" in the end to drive home a dramatic or moral point.

Also awkward is its fractured mirror image: the drama that is bent on heavy emotion most of the time, only to suddenly turn silly in order to alleviate its dire histrionics with some "comic relief."

Consistent

Neither ploy works because characters have to be generally consistent in order to be believed, so a king can't periodically turn court jester, and vice-versa.

It's good to see that experiments at "dramedy" are on the way out, as their results have left a lot to be desired.

As for "infotainment" shows, they have sometimes turned out to be more successful—provided they are produced in a fairly cohesive manner, and their focus is clearly on their informative content, with their entertainment element merely supporting it, and not running away with the show.

By this yardstick, one of ABC-5's new "infotainment" shows succeeds, while another does less well.

Positive outcome

"Urban Doktor" (Tuesdays, 9:30 p.m.) has a positive outcome because, while its resident medic is cool, he never forgets that he's a doctor and keeps dispensing medical advice throughout the half-hour show.

On the other hand, "On-Air" is a "freedom of expression" show that invites anybody to speak up on anything for a minute or less. It's a good concept because it gives viewers an idea of what "ordinary" people are concerned about.

But it falters because many of the walk-in folks who avail themselves of the show's soapbox have much too silly things to say, and generally end up wasting everybody's time (—unless you happen to think it's worth your while to discover how silly some people can be!).

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Occupations

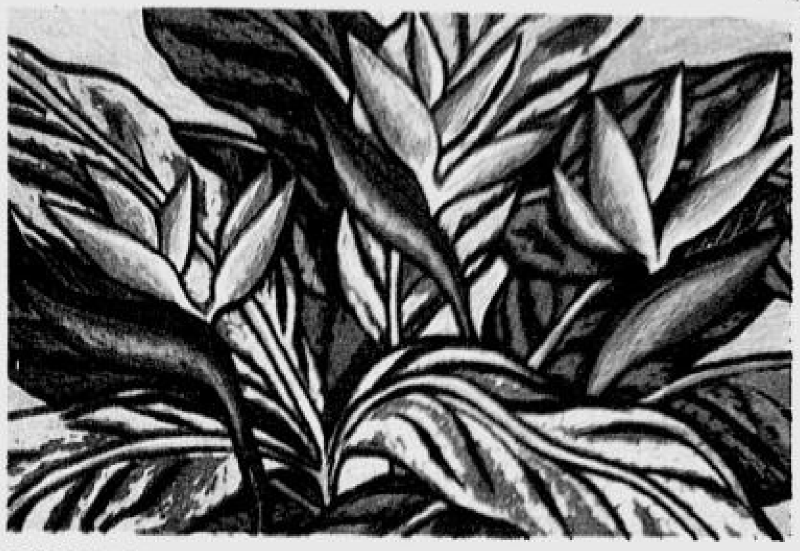
We have yet to view ABC-5's other new "infotainment" shows, "Trabaho Lang" and "The Exchange," so we can't really comment on them. But we *can* inform you that "Trabaho Lang" is aired Mondays and is bent on looking into occupations, some of them on the fringes of "traditional" professions.

For instance, host Amelyn Veloso has peeked into the world of artists—independent filmmakers from "Nerd World Cinema," a signage painter, and visual artists Manny Garibay and Rene Robles.

On the other hand, "The Exchange" has Czech Adam exchanging places with Filipina Reema—Adam lives for a time in Manila, while Reema samples life in the Czech Republic.

Public transportation

Recently, they explored the streets of their respective new homes *via* public transformation. Reema toured the National Museum and Wenceslas Square, while Adam did Intramuros and Quiapo.



SUSAN Africa's "Bali Fantasie," tempera on matte board.

"The Exchange" sounds promising. Despite its fun format and youth-oriented casting, it aims to help viewers discover the differences and similarities of Czech and Filipino lifestyles and cultures.

In the end, hopefully, we will all realize that we really *are* one, and use this insight to learn how to live harmoniously with everybody. That's a pretty valuable insight to learn from a "fun" show, isn't it?

Susan Africa, visual artist

Susan Africa is not only one of the best actresses we have, she's also a "closet" painter. Few people know that Susan is a Fine Arts graduate from UST.

For the first rime, Susan will be exhibiting her paintings in the one-woman show "Floral Memories" at Gallery 139, Artwalk Level 4, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, from Oct. 25 to Nov. 6.

A lover of classical music, Susan has given her paintings of flowers titles derived from musical instruments, composers and compositions.

National Super Quiz Bee

The 22nd National Super Quiz Bee is being aired weekly every Saturday at 1:30 until Dec. 22, with Spanky Enriquez as quizmaster. The telecasts feature the Division and Regional Championships being held in leading shopping malls.

The Quiz Bee has three levels and four subject categories: Senior Quiz Bee, Tertiary level, for General Information and International Affairs; Junior Quiz Bee, High School level, for Science and Technology; and the Children's Quiz Bee, Elementary level, for Phil. History and Culture, and Mathematics.

Screen education seminar

A one-day screen education seminar for college and high school teachers, filmmakers and librarians on the "Spirit and Definition of the Documentary" will be held today at the Goethe Institut, 687 Aurora blvd., QC. The seminar will be conducted by the Organization of Specialized Filmmakers and Goethe-Institut Manila. Call 997-6488.

Cesar Montano wants to slow down on doing action films

By Edmund L. Sicam

CESAR Montano, who's 39 going on 40, says he plans to slow down on action pictures. If he had his way, Cesar would like to do one serious movie a year, one that teaches values, preferably with director Marilou Diaz-Abaya and a light story which combines elements of drama and comedy.

Lost command

In that case, his latest movie, "Mananabas," a story about a lost command that acquires special powers, should be one of his last action flicks. Cesar is also the movie's director and even collaborated on the script with Senen Dimaguila, based on a story by Vic Dabao.

As co-line producer with manager Norma Japitana, he had to make sure the movie stayed within budget. As director, however, there were times when a bright idea would come along and he had to walk the thin line between overshooting the budget and improving the film's production value. Many times, the creative aspect outweighed the cost factor and Maverick Films spoiled the action star, knowing he'd come up with a good movie.

For this project, Cesar had to be in top physical condition since he and his cast had to shoot in the jungle and contend with snakes, leeches and mosquitoes. That includes his leading lady, Mutya ng Pilipinas 2000 Jo Canonizado, who plays a kidnaped journalist. (Like most leading ladies, Jo was not spared from the rumor mill. Sunshine Cruz was supposed to have stormed onto the set in a fit of jealousy over the special attention Jo was getting from Cesar, a report that proved to be baseless.)

With his other duties behind the camera, one can understand why Cesar wants to stay away from the action genre for a while. It is simply too demanding, both physically and emotionally, and with the birth of his daughter, Angelina Isabelle, by Sunshine, he wants to spend quality time with his family.

MONTANO. Serious painter.

Plenty of ideas

This is not to say that Cesar intends to retire from the scene anytime soon. Although he might join a group that wants to open a restaurant, he has no plans of leaving show business. Right now, he still has plenty of ideas and many projects continue to come his way.

We asked him if he sees himself still working until he's 70. His reply was in the affirmative. If he continues to be physically fit, and all indications are that he will be, we see him joining the ranks of actors like Eddie Garcia, who continues to be in demand even in his mid 70s.

Filling a void

We remarked that he owes his flourishing career to Robin Padilla, who was out of circulation for a while because of his stint behind bars. When Robin left the scene, Cesar came in to fill the void and got projects that would have gone to Robin. To his credit, he did a very good job of filling Robin's shoes.

Cesar preferred not to answer our question and instead lauded Robin for his ability to charm the Pinoy audience and his natural talent. What this episode proves is that there's room for *both* Cesar and Robin since they are charismatic performers. Robin's absence served to focus attention on Cesar's own appeal and when the former "Bad Boy" went back, the audience found room for two talented individuals.

Aside from being a show biz biggie, Cesar is also a serious painter. He has had several exhibits and has sold several of his works. One of his dreams is to take a one-month break and go to his farm and just work on his canvases, with no worry about getting a call slip or evaluating different film proposals.

He has also ventured into recording an album, "Subok Lang," which turned gold after several months. This encouraged him to accept an invitation to do a series of concerts abroad recently.

Of all of his talents, however, Cesar seems to favor acting in front of the camera. After all, he started out as a dramatic actor and it is performing that really gets his creative juices flowing. We look forward to more dramatic gems from this multi-talented star.

Rush of remakes follows well-worn path to theaters

(From page E1)

fended Hitchcock purists.

"Vanilla Sky" director Crowe was enchanted by the fractured, fanciful nature of Alejandro Amenabar's "Open Your Eyes." Crowe views his adaptation as a "remix" rather than a remake, calling his film a "genre-bending, mind-twisting portrait of the American male as he exists five minutes into the future."

"Hopefully, it honors the original. I like the idea it could be sort of a dialogue between the two movies. I kept thinking of the original like a folk song. There's so many different ways you can playet by."

"The Time Machine" marks Simon Wells' live-action filmmaking debut after he directed or co-directed such anim version of "The Time Machine" is set in the late Victorian era but transplants the story from London to New York City.

"There's no reason for not going back over a piece of material that has been done before," Wells said. "There's been quite a few productions of Shakespeare's plays, but people keep finding new things to do with them." *AP*

GUY Pearce appears in a scene from DreamWorks Pictures' "The Time Machine," one of several remakes of popular films that will be released for the fall 2001 season. AP

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM OCT. 13 - OCT. 19

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	E! 31
[illegible]	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:00 Mary D' Potter 9:00 Da Pilya en Da Pilot 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Auto Review 6:30 Uncut 7:00 Saturday Primetime Special 9:00 The Bodyguards 10:00 Explore with Mike 11:00 National Network News 11:30 Auto Focus	6:00 Wing Commander 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Tropang Trumpo 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Saturday Night Specials *Comedy Awards 2001* 11:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Imbestigador 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 GMA's Best 11:00 Master Showman Presents 12:30 GMA Network News 1:00 The 700 Club	6:00 Star Trek 7:00 Malcolm In The Middle 7:30 Simpsons 8:00 Strange World 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Awit Awards* 11:00 PGMA	6.00 Viva Box Office *Pedro Penduko: Ang Pagbabalik* 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Jaya Unleashed 11:00 IBC Elorde	6:00 Digital Tour 6:30 G2 Living 7:00 Explorer 7:30 Early Edition 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 12:30 MYX Sampler	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Alyssa Milano* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Married with Children* 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Sissy Spacek* 11:30 Extreme Close Up *Juliet Binoche* 12:00 E! Coming Attractions
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SWITCHING CHANNELS

'Weakest Link' starts Oct. 15 on IBC-13

By Edmund L. Sicam

VIVA Television launches its new game show, "The Weakest Link" on Monday, Oct. 15 at 9:30 p.m. over IBC-13. The local version of the popular BBC-2 production will be telecast Monday to Friday at 9:30 p.m. It will air after "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire" on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and after the PBA games on Wednesday and Friday.

The local version of "The Weakest Link" will be hosted by Edu Manzano, an experienced talk show host ("Monday Night with Edu," "The Edu Manzano Show") who has also handled game shows like "Play and Win." We watched a dry run of the show recently and Edu impressed us with his commanding presence and his fast pacing.

The format of the show requires eight contestants to answer relatively easy questions on the way to a maximum P1 million grand prize.

After every round, the group expels one member from the game until only two are left. At that point, whoever answers more questions wins the top prize for the day, which will vary depending on how many questions the group has answered.

It is a nerve-wracking game to play because, unlike "WBAM2," contestants must answer the questions within a time limit. There are no lifelines and no multiple-choice answers. Due to their anxiety, some contestants are unable to answer even the easy questions. Edu contributes to the stressful atmosphere with his intimidating stance. It's all part of the game.

Edu related to us during the press con for "Weakest Link," that at a recent taping involving show biz personalities in politics, the group was very jovial at the start. However, when there were only four of them left, they were not talking to each other anymore!

What creates the tension is the fact that one player is eliminated every round, so it's a blow to one's ego when he or she is chosen to leave. Intelligence is also not a guarantee for victory because the rest of the group might just gang up on a bright person and boot him out.

It's a cross between "Survivor" and "WBAM," two very popular shows abroad. Incidentally, "Weakest Link" and "WBAM" are usually aired on competing networks. It is only here where there is one carrying station. Also, in many international version of the game, the hosts are female, and Edu is one of the few male hosts.

Interview with Chris Albrecht

Chris Albrecht is president of HBO Original Programming and is responsible for greenlighting the production of "Band of Brothers," which starts airing on Oct. 27. The budget for the 10-part series is P120 million so we were interested in finding out what went into the decision-making process as well as other related topics.

We sent written questions to him and we got his replies recently. Some of the anwers to our questions were provided by HBO US:

Why did you greenlight "Band of Brothers" even if it did not star bankable actors? Didn't the $120 million budget cause some concern on your part?

Tom Hanks did "From the Earth to the Moon." When "Band of Brothers" was available, there were several networks that were interested in it and Tom, I believe, felt that the place for him to do it was HBO. The experience was great. Steven (Spielberg) agreed. We hope that they both will bring us something else. There isn't anything in the works right now.

Does HBO plan to do more high-budgeted ($100 million and up) projects in the future?

Not at the moment.

You are responsible for greenlighting projects for airing on your network. What criteria do you use in making your decision?

We want something that just really impresses us and something we feel is really susbtantial. We look for projects that we feel we can make really well, and belong to HBO because somebody else probably wouldn't do our version of them.

How much of HBO's schedule is devoted to original programming ? What is the ideal ratio of original to theatrical releases?

We're about 30 percent to theatrical. There are two very important goals we have: One is to have significantly more theatrical product than any other service. As a matter of fact, we'll have as much as the two other services, Starz and Showtime, combined. The other is to have the most compelling, original programming on TV. Those two goals, I think, are compatible and the ratio will be determined by what we need to do to achieve those goals.

What was it like owning a comedy club? Did you discover any promising comedian who's famous now?

HBO US: During his tenure at Improv, Chris Albrecht worked with comedians such as Mike Binder ("Mind of a Married Man"), Larry David ("Curb Your Enthusiasm") and Robert Wuhl ("Arli$$"), all of whom currently star in their own HBO original series.

As president, do you have to deal with signing up stars as you did when you were with ICM? Is it possible to attract actors like Mel Gibson, Tom Cruise or Julia Roberts to do an HBO project?

HBO US: HBO's Original Programming has attracted top talents such as Tom Hanks, Steven Spielberg, Emma Thompson, Mike Nichols, Billy Crystal, Wesley Snipes, Demi Moore, Sharon Stone and Andy Garcia, among others.

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WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

EVERYTIME my family and I go out to dine, we end up driving through two fastfood places before finally sitting down to have my craving for that day. Satisfying each one's want can be a great source of stress. But going to one place and having the best of everything is like experiencing fantasy island.

Picadeli first came out with this idea where they offer the best of many provinces: longaniza from Vigan and Cabanatuan, the tapa of San Andres, a superior dalandan juice, and so much more.

Craving

Recently, I was at Rockwell Power Plant to sample the food at the latest "in" place, Dish. Here, a whole family or a group of friends can indulge in whatever craving they have for the moment. A slight drawback is that when you see the menu of these seven outlets, you get so confused. You don't know which one you want to start with so you end up sales-talking your friends or conning them into ordering what you want so you can at least sample most of the other dishes.

The restaurant-bar seats over 350. It is a sit-down place where a waiter hands out menus from all the seven outlets. Each outlet specializes in a variety of cuisines: Baranggay is Pinoy, Luna is pasta and pizza, Steak Factory is, guess what?, Pho Viet is Vietmanese, Tapas, Tapas is Spanish, Hoshi's Japanese and S is desserts.

I sampled some of the most popular dishes of each outlet and these are the ones I strongly suggest you try: From Baranggay I loved Tess Litton's lumpiang tinapa, stuffed with tinapa and served with suka and bawang. Tess Litton is the woman behind the irresistable food her husband EJ indulges in daily.

From Luna, ask for the most-ordered pizza, I believe it is called Margherita. Check out their Calzone.

Popular

Steak Factory is operated by Melo's Steak House which is popular for its tender and juicy Angus beef. I tried their BBQ spare ribs and it was great!

Pho Viet has a delicious stuffed Chicken Wings with a lemony sweetish patis sauce that is perfect with Vietnamese cuisine. Their piping-hot noodle soups are also great for these rainy days. Topped with some large fresh bean sprouts and mint leaves, they'll make your nose perspire with satisfaction. Tapas Tapas has the most excellent paellas. Operated by Don Anastacio Alba's son, it has fantastic chorizos and sticky tender callos.

Hoshi has very good Japanese dishes but one that made me hum to myself was their Kobe Beef Chahan. This is a Japanese fried rice dish with tiny morsels of Kobe beef cooked medium rare. The thing that facinates me is how such small pieces of beef can be cooked to perfection. The dish is a brilliant creation. It is an opportunity for us to try something many claim to have indulged in but in reality have never really tried. Expensive? Not at all. A bowl is P 250 only. Check it out and you'll see why!

The S desserts had no place to fit in—all the compartments were full. I hear their Panacotta and sansrival are winners.

Great cooks

Some of the owners are also great cooks. Marion Salonga is a Cordon Bleu cooking school graduate from Paris and I hear she makes a delicious pan fried goose liver. She also did some fencing with the pots and pans at Prince Albert.

Philip Cu Unjieng makes a mean Roast leg of Lamb while wife Tricia's appetite is soley reserved for Steak factories specialities. Maybe one of these days they can share their cooking talents with other food lovers via food a festival at Dish. They also have top bands performing every evening.

So, when confused, go to Dish at Rockwell Power Plant and possibly end up confused or finally experience dining in total peace. Comes highly recommended! This place is open for lunch and dinner. I apologize for my last recommendation, Slices, whose Ortigas outlet had closed. Makati is still open. *Patawarin nyo po ako.*

Happy eating! *For comments and suggestions: sandydaza@hotmail.com*

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Rachel Weisz gets behind 'The Shape of Things'

By Matt Wolf

LONDON—On the face of things, the character Rachel Weisz plays in the current off-Broadway play "The Shape of Things" is a nasty piece of work—a cunning, venomous young woman who snags a boyfriend whom she slowly and systematically makes over and then destroys.

Chosen companion

But that's not how Weisz chooses to think of Evelyn, the art student whose chosen companion is tellingly named Adam.

"I totally like her," says Weisz, the English actress weaned on the stage but best known for her work opposite Brendan Fraser in the two blockbuster "Mummy" movies.

The play, written and directed by filmmaker Neil LaBute ("In the Company of Men," "Nurse Betty"), was a sellout hit during two separate engagements over the last few months at London's Almeida Theater.

The same production, co-starring Paul Rudd, Gretchen Mol and Frederick Weller, opened at the Promenade Theater in New York City on Oct. 10.

"If I start to objectify Evelyn and see anything she does as immoral, I wouldn't be able to play her," Weisz says in a recent interview at a neighborhood cafe. "She's got a very powerful mind and personality; I think she could be a great artist one day or write a great film."

Selfish people

What is more, Weisz continues, as with "any great artist in the world, people around them have to take it—their family, their lovers, their children, their friends. Artists are selfish people, so people around them get sacrificed. Definitely."

Her skin honey-colored from a recent vacation in Spain, Weisz poses as many questions as she answers.

"Are we in the right theater?" she asks,

RACHEL/p.F3

WEISZ. All her stage roles have been "hugely satisfying." AP

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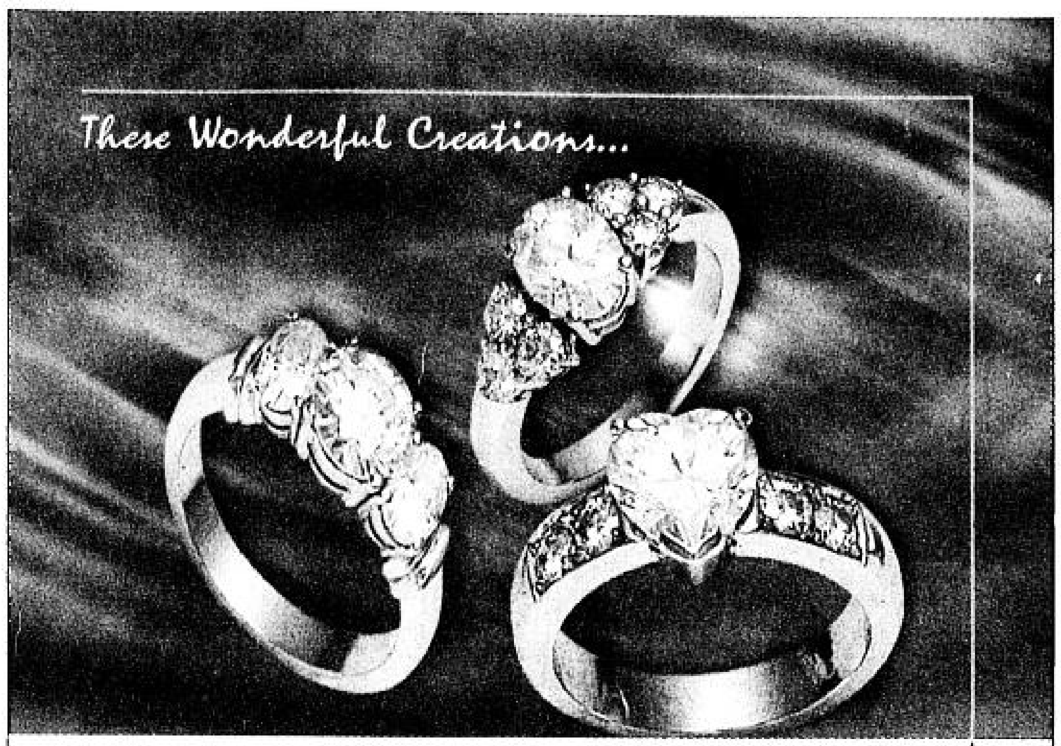
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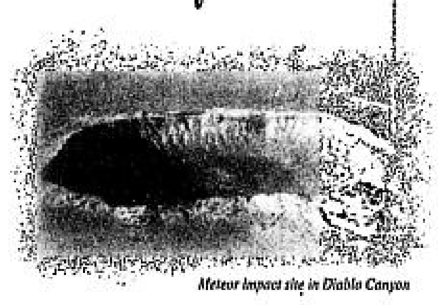

Meteor Impact site in Diablo Canyon

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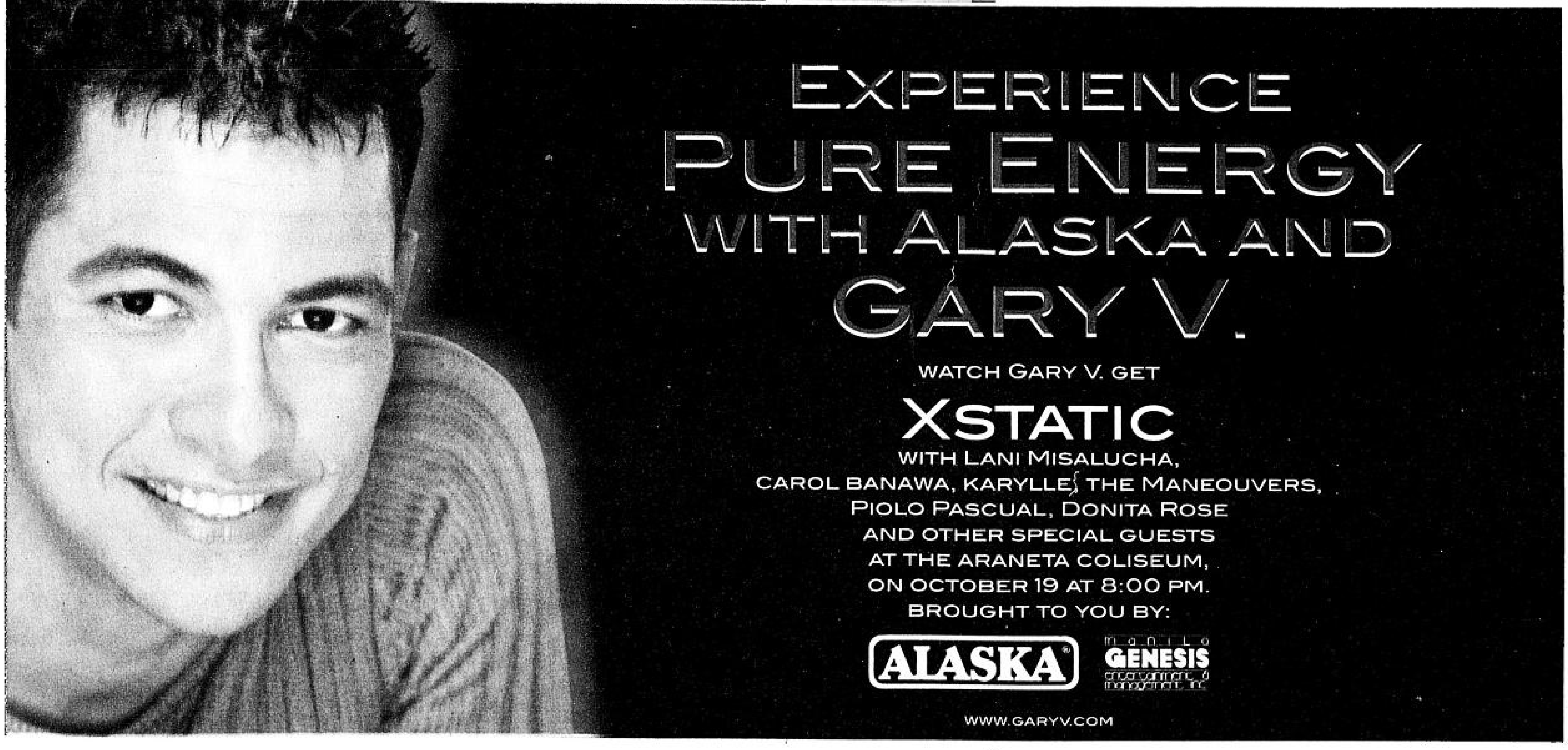
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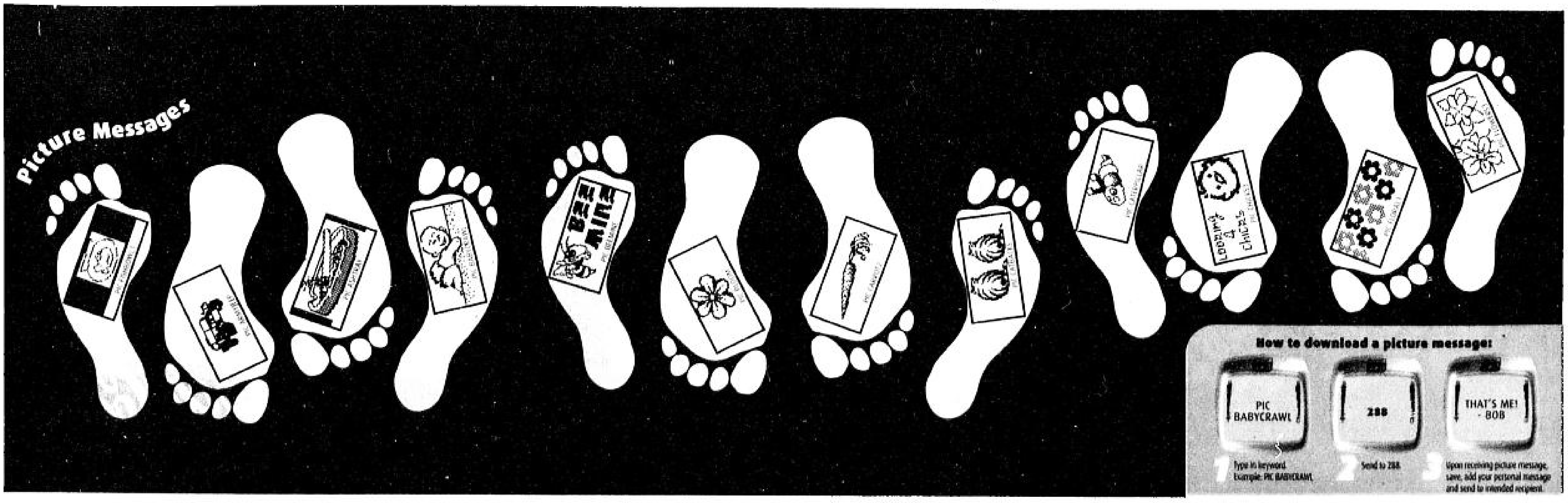
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There's magic when First Circle plays together

By Jocelyn Valle

EXCEPT for vocalist and rhythm guitarist Brian Anderson, all of the members of the First Circle band admit to buying bootleg CDs. But after completing their second album called "Natural Reaction" (their first under Neo Records, with new female vocalist, Odette Felisida), they vowed not to patronize pirated tapes and discs anymore.

Local artists

"*Nakaka*-guilty, *lalo na kung gawa ng* local artists," they chorus. "*At saka iba talaga ang* quality *kapag* original," points out bassist Bolichie Suzara.

"Natural Reaction" is not out on sidewalks yet but the First Circle members would surely feel bad if ever they see an illegal copy of their beloved new recording, which, they report, was "two years in the making."

Why wait for pirates to reproduce "Natural Reaction" when you can readily buy it at legit record bars? It's more expensive but keep in mind that a lot of creativity and hard work went into every original recording. The unscrupulous traders only used a CD writer and cheap labor.

We've listened to the 10 tracks (plus the bonus in-between-recording sessions of the band's craziness) in "Natural Recording" and we can say that it's worth the extra bucks that you wouldn't normally give to the recording companies. (Just a thought: Why is it so much easier to find really nice and collection-item VCDs for P150 when, for the same price, you can only get a CD compilation of ballroom-dancing ditties?)

Carrier single

The carrier single, ""Ako'y Sa 'Yo," is First Circle's version of the hit ballad by the '90s band, I-axe. It's been getting a lot of airplay from FM radio stations. We're not surprised because it makes an instant connection with listeners.

Plus, Brian's vocals give the song a distinct quality: softer, lighter and sweeter. In the process, you are reminded of the original tune but you are also sure that you're enjoying the new version.

Bolichie and Brian share that the band has always loved "Ako'y Sa 'Yo." "Six years ago *pa namin 'yan tinutugtog*," says Bolichie. "*Nakatira pa kaming lahat noon sa* Cubao. Aside from gusto *namin 'yung* song, *madalas i*-request *'yan sa mga* gigs."

FIRST CIRCLE. The band prefers to be called a lounge act.

Brian regrets not meeting the guys behind the song. "*Gustong-gusto namin talaga 'yung* song," he enthuses, wondering how the I-axe guys react to First Circle's take of "Ako'y sa 'Yo."

The sixth track, "Sakayan ng Jeep," is also a winner. The situation here is rather mundane but because of songwriter Bodgie Dasig's simple yet poetic-sounding words and hummable melody, and Odette's unpretentious singing, the song works. Credit also goes to the First Circle band, which arranged and produced not only "Sakayan ng Jeep" but all the selections as well.

Lovers of middle-of-the road music will surely appreciate the rest of the tracks: "Natural Reaction," "Love is an Illusion," "One More Day," Baby, Do You Mind if…," "Guiding Light," "Huwag Na," "Because of You" and "'Di Inaasahan."

The band singles out "One More Day" and "'Di Inaasahan" as the group's collective favorites.

More dance tunes

Surprisingly, the bandmates have diverse musical backgrounds and tastes. Odette, or Hip as the guys call her, is a veteran of rave parties and dance clubs. She is open to all kinds of music, ranging from rock to acid jazz. "So while brainstorming, I try to inject more dance tunes," she avers.

As for filling in the slot vacated by former First Circle vocalist Mirel Saison, who is known for his powerful voice and energy, Odette tries her best to be a worthy replacement.

"Idol *ko si* Mirel *sa pagkanta*," she declares. "*Wala akong karapatang i*-compare *sa kanya*. He's a friend. *Kahit na nasa* abroad *na siya*, he still gives me advice though e-mail."

Bolichie listens to anything. "As long as it grooves," he grins, adding that he is more interested in the result of the mixing and blending of different musical types.

Major influence

Drummer Rodel "Badong" Luzon lists jazz as a major influence while keyboardist and bandleader Raul "B.K.G." Policarpio has a classical background but also likes new age, dance and pop. The Yamaha Electron champion shares that his piano teacher, Eric Dimson, has made a big impact in his musical life.

Guitarist Dennis Ranalan started out with standards before he got exposed to other types of music. He also got to play a lot of '60s and '70s songs with his former band. Now, he's into fusion.

On stage, First Circle dishes out cover songs, top 40s, R & B and some dance music, the dose of each depends on the audience's composition and mood. "There is magic when we play together," smiles Raul. "Maybe it's because we really enjoy making music together. It becomes different each time."

Just don't call First Circle a show band, which Bolichie explains, is a musical group that usually performs at hotels and uses costumes and choreography. "We'd rather be called a lounge act," he says.

SWAYZE. He can act, sing and dance.

AM/FM

Paeans to love and Patrick Swayze's singing

By Rito P. Asilo

LISTENING to the AM band has become an exciting pastime for us because of the variety that it offers.

But when you tire of the different types of chatter it offers, especially now that all they talk about is the war being waged against terrorism, it can get a bit daunting—and tiring.

Soothing alternative

After a hard day's work, sometimes all you want to do is relax and listen to good music. So, you turn to FM, and hope that it offers a soothing alternative.

We did just that, but the moment we settled on one station that described itself "friendly" in its station ID, we were suddenly "rewarded" with a commercial jingle that was obviously patterned after the popular naughty song, "Sisirin." This one ended with the catchy line, "*Tikman mo ang sisig ko,*" while a breathy female voice cooed like somebody, or something, was tickling her.

So we pressed the dial to the next station because we were not in a tickling mood. We settled on the neighboring station when we heard the smart and light exchange of two DJs with perfect diction and a seemingly perfect sense of humor—and then the guy broke wind! And the talk shifted from their "topic of the day" to a discussion on how often people passed air. It took the male DJ forever to convince his female partner—even their lady newsanchor, who needed a lot of coaxing!—to admit that she does it, too.

Pollutants

They sounded like they were having fun, but we chose to switch stations again because the thought of bad air and other pollutants were not appealing to us.

We settled on WRock 96.3, whose music we like because they may be pop, jazz or OPM, but the chosen songs are not the type that reached the *badny* level of overplay, like what happened to those paeans to love and Luneta martyrdom, Cliff Richard's "Ocean Deep" ("*Can't you give this fool a chance. A little love is all I ask, and that is all…Ocean deep, I'm so afraid to show my feelings, I have sailed a million ceilings in the solitary room…*"), or Lionel Ritchie's "Hello" ("*You're all I ever wanted, and my arms are open wide…You know just what to say, and you know just what to do…And I want to tell you so much I love you.*"). Nope. They don't have those!

Original version

What we heard were songs like the original version of "Loving You," Minnie Ripperton's chirpy 1974 love song (you can't miss the omnipresent tweeting of the birds in the background) that features her angelic five-octave vocal prowess, that had been revived by Julia Fordham (hauntingly), Shanice (no birds this time, just the sound of waves at a beach) and even Lani Misalucha (who includes the song in her repertoire). It's such a loss that Minnie died at the young age of 31.

Also heard were Anita Baker's groundbreaking "Rapture;" the eternally-confused but talented singer/songwriter who kept changing names but was once known as Prince and his version of the Stylistics' "Betcha By Golly Wow;" the new single by Kaya, Ryan Cayabyab's Smokey Mountain/14K of the new decade; Air Supply's "If," (check out Martha Wash's better, more soulful version); A1's "Heaven By Your Side" from their 1999 album, "Here We Come," whose vocals sound a bit like the chipmunkish warbling of Boyzone's Stephen Gately; Gloria Estefan's echoed-to-the-hilt "Cuts Both Ways;" Michael McDonald and Patti Labelle's 1986 duet, "On My Own;" Vanessa William's number one hit, "Save the Best for Last" and Patrick Swayze's beautiful, sweet rendition of "She's Like the Wind,' from the 1987 Emile Ardolino film, "Dirty Dancing."

Yes, Swayze can act, dance and *sing* too! And he's no loser in the looks department either—and, unlike Cruise, Costner and Ford, he is *still* married (to Lisa Neimi)!

We will soon try to feature actors like Swayze who can not just carry a tune but sing up a storm as well. You will be amazed when you see the list.

We were also pleased to hear WRock's very catchy jingle sung by Jaya, which demonstrated the grit and soul of the R&B chanteuse.

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Daniel Fernando gets a taste of politics

By Remy M. Umerez

ONE cannot talk about politics and Daniel Fernando without mentioning Josefina M. dela Cruz, governor of the Province of Bulacan, who is partly responsible for the actor's running for political office.

Board member

Even before Daniel got elected as board member or *bokal* for the 2nd district of Bulacan, he had the opportunity to work with Josie on projects like Alay Lakad and a mass wedding where he acted as the best man for all the couples.

It was Josie who discouraged Daniel from running as vice mayor and instead asked him to join her party and aim for the position of board member.

"I see in him the dedication and sincerity of someone who truly wants to serve the people. *Hindi na nga sumasayad sa kamay niya ang kanyang sweldo dahil sa dami ng taong nangangailangan ng tulong niya,*" the governor reveals.

Daniel is enjoying the best of two worlds. Best remembered as the lover of Ana Marie Gutierrez in "Scorpio Nights" (1985), it is unlikely that Daniel would bare again on the screen.

No regrets

"*Respeto na lang sa aking sarili at katungkulan* and for the people who voted and trusted me, During the height of the bold trend, many offers came my way and I firmly said no. But I had no regrets doing 'Scorpio Nights' because it was a landmark film.

FERNANDO and Bulacan governor Josefina dela Cruz.

"I am more concentrated now on character acting. I have just completed 'Mananabas.' It is a story of good versus evil, and I am the evil one *na dapat parusahan*," he explains.

The actor is aware of the intrigues that lurk in politics. "*Mas masalimuot kaysa intrigang matatagpuan sa* show biz *dahil may* threats *na kasama, pero kaya kong harapin ang mga ito*," he declares.

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Eddie Garcia says comedy is serious business

By Edmund L. Sicam

IN "Death Row," Eddie Garcia portrays a convict who strikes a special relationship with a young prisoner played by Cogie Domingo. In his latest movie, "Sanggano't Sanggago" Eddie's character also spends time in jail but while "Death Row" was an emotionally exhausting experience, "Sanggano't Sanggago" was a fun shoot for the veteran actor.

Eddie hastens to add, however, that making people laugh is serious business. "*Mahirap ang* comedy. You might fall flat on your face if you're not funny." That's why, to Eddie, every film is a challenge. "It doesn't matter whether it's a drama or a comedy. I work hard in every movie I do," he explains.

Active career

That's probably why, even in his 70s, the actor-director is still very active in show business, while others younger than he is have long retired from the scene. Although he can no longer do really rough and tumble scenes, Eddie still manages to surprise his fellow actors with his physical stamina and endurance.

Another reason for his staying power is his versatility. Many actors make their living as the good guy, villain or comedian, but very few can do all three characters convincingly. Eddie is one of the few who's comfortable with any kind of role given to him. Who can forget his portrayal of the nemesis of FPJ in many movies, the real-life heroes he has portrayed on the big screen, and his sex comedies with Gloria Diaz?

One advantage of doing a comedy, according to Eddie, is that, at the end of the day, everyone feels lighthearted. Whereas in a drama, actors usually take some time to snap out of the gloomy events that may have transpired during the shooting.

AGBAYANI AND GARCIA. New comic tandem.

Improvisation

The other advantage is that comedy actors are encouraged to improvise on the script. Sometimes the improvisation is even better because the director is able to gauge whether the routine will work from the reaction of the cast and crew. Director Al Tantay clarifies, however, that he had the final say on what ideas would make it to the film. After all, it is the director who sees the bigger picture.

Eddie's co-star in the movie is Bayani Agbayani, who has played sidekick to some of our top stars. This is their first team-up and Eddie is all praises for Bayani who, he says, has a bright future. Eddie's love interest is played by Jackie Forster and, despite the disparity in their ages, the debonair actor is expected to pull the May-December tandem off.

Many still remember Eddie's sex comedies from the '80s, where he usually played a henpecked husband who tried to romance other women and got caught in the process. Eddie says there are only a few sex-oriented jokes in "Sanggano." Much of the humor comes from the interplay between him and Bayani.

Admiration

The cast members who were present at the presscon for the movie, like Bayani and Symon Soler, expressed their admiration for Eddie, who would stay on the set even when he was already done for the day. They specially liked it when Eddie would read his lines even if he was not on camera, to help a fellow actor deliver his dialogue.

Director Tantay didn't feel intimidated by Eddie's reputation as a veteran actor and director but he made it a point to ask for Eddie's help. Eddie never interferes with his director when he is an actor. He calls the director the captain of the ship, so he is there to follow instructions. However, when his opinion is asked, he gives it freely and unselfishly.

Eddie has just finished an action movie with Ronald Gan Ledesma and Alma Concepcion titled "Kahit Saan, Encuentro." He plays a military man with noble intentions. He's also working on a comedy, "Kapitan Ambo,Outside the Kulambo," with Klaudia Koronel and Isabel Granada.

Proof positive that Eddie Garcia never runs out of projects even during these hard movie times!

Joey rocks October with premieres and shows

WHEREVER Joey@92.3 FM goes, film buffs, music lovers and the party-hearty crowd are sure to follow. And this month, Joey continues to pack the hottest venues in town with exciting treats for everyone.

Premiere

"Joey's Movie Series" kick started the month with a major bang via the premiere of "American Sweethearts" starring Julia Roberts. As expected, Joey filled Cinema 6 of Glorietta IV to the rafters. Joey even gave added treats like back massages from Emporio Armani White, makeovers from Maybelline, and lots of food from Kenny Rogers Roasters, Cinnzeo, Pillsbury and Duty Free Philippines.

Joey's visual feast continued on Oct. 8 with the premiere of "Legally Blonde" at Cinema 6 of Glorietta IV. There were fortune-telling from Cosmopolitan Magazine, nail art from the Nail Spa, skin analysis and make-overs from L'Oreal Plenitude and L'Oreal Paris, and Blonde hair coloring from Fudge.

Adrenaline rush

After a round of feel-good movies, Joey provides an adrenaline rush with the premiere of "Don't Say A Word" starring Michael Douglas on Oct. 29 (Monday) at 7:30 p.m. at Cinema 6 of Glorietta IV. To add excitement, Joey will have a code-cracking game prior to the screening. This premiere is made possible by Squibb Natural Vitamin E, Time Depot and BPI, Nestea, Choice DM and Advil.

Movies are not the only treats on Joey's list; a good round of bar tours is likewise in order. There was the popular bar tour series, "Joey's Night Rhythms" at Strumm's El Pueblo on Oct. 10, with great music from Dye Vest.

Then on Oct. 11, "Joey's Jiggy Nights" hit Azurri Too at the SM Mega Strip in Megamall, with A'Petite.

Next, music and movies make for an interesting mix as "Joey's Reel Rhythms" in cooperation with Equitable Card, National Sports Grill, Aegon Life Insurance, Bayfresh, Kitchen and Pho Hoa, fill the Greenbelt Theater lobby with memorable themes from your favorite flicks on Oct. 17 and 24 (Wednesday). Acoustic Jive will take you on a interesting trip down memory lane.

Acoustic duo

Then Joey brings back the acoustic duo of Nobel Queano and Rodel Vidal in "Perk Patrol" at Dome starting 8 p.m. Troop to Dome's Shangri-La branch (Oct 26) and enjoy a round of soothing rhythms.

Finally, brace yourselves for the biggest All Hallow's Eve Party from Joey—"Planet Love @ The Tent" on Oct. 31. A showcase of music and clubbing lifestyles, Planet Love features the best international dance music and the latest in laser lights and graphics. NBC and Joey will bring in Tokyo's biggest club night. Touted as an all-around intense physical, emotional and audio-visual treat, it topbills veteran Planet Love resident DJ John Robinson and Japanese DJ Koutaru, among others.

Rachel Weisz gets . . .

(From page F1)

keen to get the lay of New York theaterland. And then: "Is Ethan Hawke good on stage?" she wonders, regarding another film actor. Hawke appears off-Broadway in Sam Shepard's "The Late Henry Moss."

The conversation is punctuated by sightings of some of Weisz's starrier neighbors in north London's Primrose Hill: Sheila Gish, the English actress with whom Weisz co-starred on the West End several years back in "Suddenly Last Summer;" Jude Law, her co-star earlier this year in "Enemy at the Gates."

"It's so funny when you see somebody whom you fought the Battle of Stalingrad with last year in Berlin," Weisz says of Law, who is out walking with his young son, Rafferty. "I've hardly seen him since."

Primrose Hill, she deadpans, "is celebrity central now; I think I'll have to move out."

Close friend

Also living nearby, though not visible this particular day, is Sam Mendes, the Award Award-winning film and theater director, who was Weisz's partner for a while and remains a close friend.

If "The Shape of Things" on stage stokes Weisz's enthusiasm, screen disappointments such as "Enemy at the Gates" are among the reasons why.

"It didn't work for me," she says of the historical saga, which was poorly received by the press. "But then, I'm very hard to please. The opening 20 minutes were amazing, (but) the script was a bit dodgy."

By Weisz's estimation, only "one or two" of the movies she has made have rivaled the plays in which she has performed.

"Every play I've done has really been hugely satisfying," she says. "Perhaps I haven't been doing the right films."

Her favorite remains the little-seen 1998 English movie, "I Want You," co-starring Alessandro Nivola, while her screen debut in the 1996 "Stealing Beauty" gave her a summer on location in Tuscany with Bernardo Bertolucci: "You couldn't get much better as your first bit part."

As for the feisty love interest Evie Carnahan in the two "Mummy" movies, she says, "I love doing comedy, and just thought it was a hoot. It reminded me of 'Raiders of the Lost Ark.'"

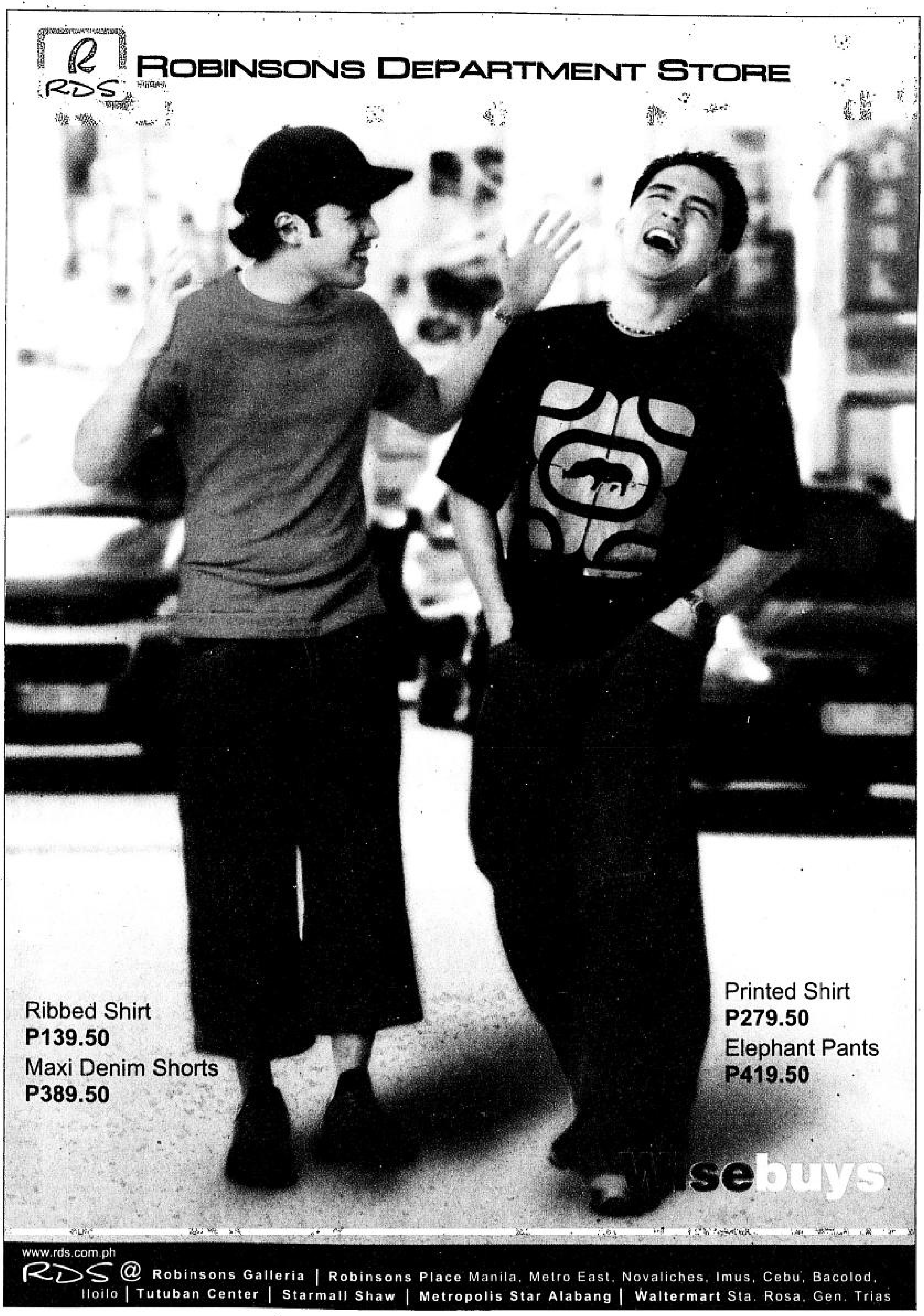
And yet, it was not Gilda in Noel Coward's "Design for Living," Catherine in "Suddenly Last Summer," or Evelyn in "The Shape of Things"—her primary trio of London theater roles.

Fascinating

On stage, she says, "You're creating the whole shape of the evening, just you and the other actors: That's very challenging and fascinating. In film, you do one line or one word, and then you go home again; you have no totality over what the audience is going to see."

Weisz has a new film awaiting release, "About a Boy," based on the novel by Londoner Nick Hornby ("Fever Pitch") and co-starring Hugh Grant. "It's a comedy but very well observed; I don't think it's broad," she says.

Weisz sounds pleased to be giving herself over entirely to this play and to LaBute, whose earlier play, "Bash," did well both here and in New York. *AP*



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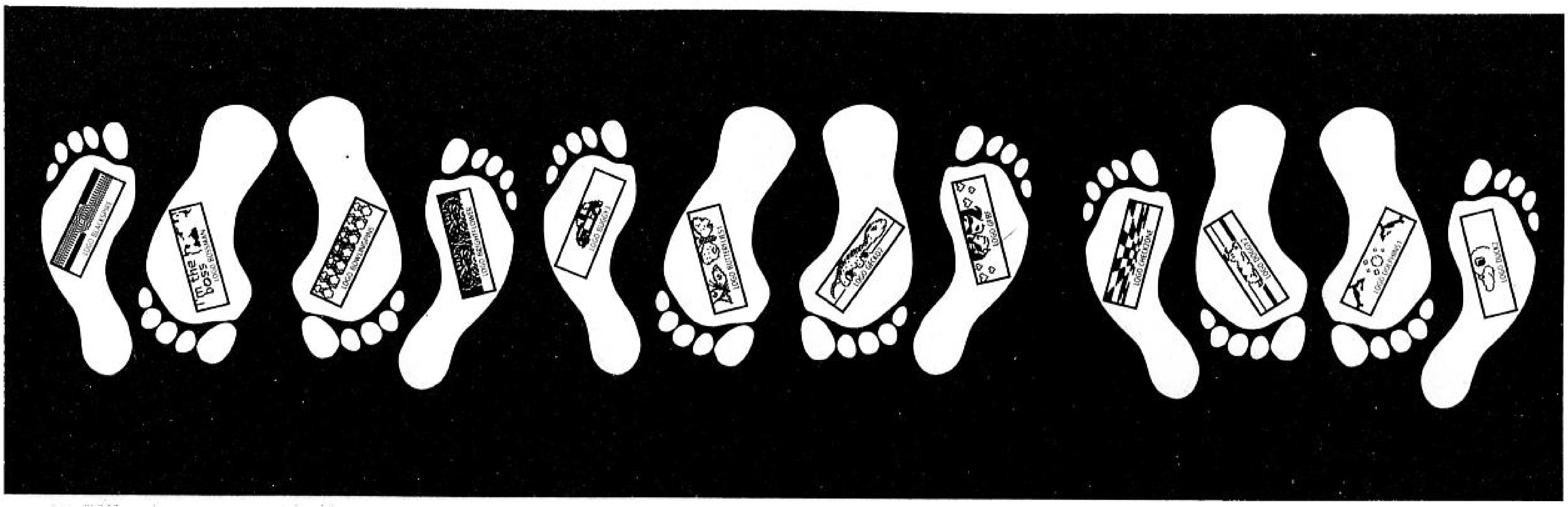


Starting them young in the field of music

By Ryan Cayabyab

WHEN I was four years old, my mother taught me how to play the piano. Maybe she saw that I was very interested in music. Maybe I could sing in the correct pitch as a toddler. Maybe I reacted to musical stimuli as a baby. Maybe as a youngster I frequented the piano and would always pound my tiny palms on the keyboard.

Voice instructor

Maybe that irritated my mother who at that time was a voice instructor at the UP College of Music (it used to be called the UP Conservatory of Music). Whatever the reason, my mother succeeded in teaching me a simple ditty, complete with left hand accompaniment. She even sang while I played the piano.

Although now I can only remember the first line of the lyrics, " *Me gustan todas, me gustan todas, me gustan todas...,*" to this day I can still remember the tune.

I was no prodigy. Try to imagine what a four-year-old can play, that was what I played. No, she did not teach me how to read notes, I learned that later with another teacher.

Older musicians would later say that I had a good ear. They meant I had a good ear for music because I could repeat the music that I heard on the piano—without any need for musical notes to read. Elderly people would readily call this specific talent as "*magaling sa oido,*" "*ma-tenga.*"

Inborn

Does one acquire the talent for "*oido*?" Is that developed? Is that feat inborn (as the olds would say)?; in the genes (as the younger olds would aver)?; God-given (as the faithful would exclaim)?

Of course, it is God-given! Of course, it is in the genes! But it is my opinion that not all "inborn" talent will surface unless a specific spark ignites the development of that "gift."

I always see this spark of awareness as a magical moment whenever I see young boys and girls recognize their connection to music. And it does not matter if the connection is superficial at the start. I believe this connection to music will develop in the child a comfort zone later in his or her life.

I grew up with classical music. My mother, trying to help my.father make both ends meet, opened our quonset house inside the UP campus (Area 1, to be specific) to lady boarders. Not just any lady boarders, mind you: The students were all from the college of music. So you can imagine the kind of music that permeated the atmosphere in our home!

CAYABYAB WITH THE 14K. Children who study music tend to do better academically than those who don't.

Musical home

It was a musical home. There were Saturdays that the boarders would teach us Cayabyab kids a song and dance routine. I still remember one song we had to learn and perform for our parents: "Don't give up the ship." *Wala pang* "Sound of Music" *noon*... Then the boarders would perform their concertos and short classical pieces.

I believe I share this sentiment with a lot of musical families. Although this was *oido* decades back, recent scientific studies prove that early exposure to classical music has great benefits for individuals.

Encouraging and exposing your children to classical music will not necessarily make your child a musician, but it can make your child a better thinker. Studies have proven that there is a relationship between spatial-temporal reasoning and music. It is not uncommon to find musicians who are good in math, science and statistics.

It is a fact that children who study music tend to do better academically than those who do not study music at all. Also, children tend to behave more responsibly as students if given the opportunity to study music. Studying music can help children develop intellectually in ways that improve abilities other than that which are musical.

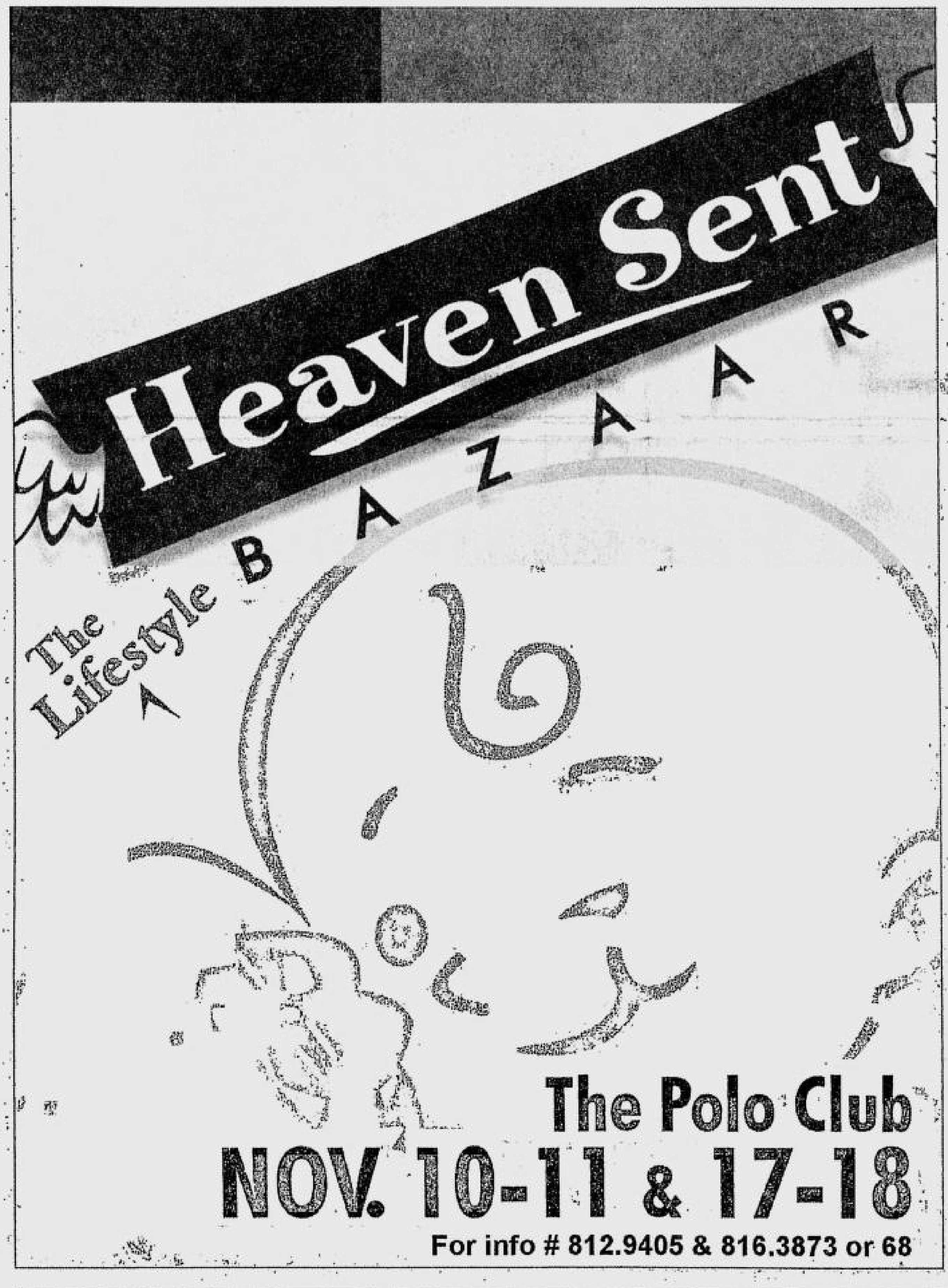
Piano lessons

A study has shown that after six months of piano lessons, preschoolers had spatial-temporal IQ scores that were 34 percent higher than those of students who received computer instead of music training.

Enrolling your children in Music and Movement courses is a step towards a better appreciation of music in general, and classical music in particular. This is a good preparatory course for children prior to enrollment, on a solo instrument like piano or violin. This will help them recognize the musical elements with ease as they study their instruments.

(Music and Movement courses are anchored on the idea that music is an expressive and communicative language that can improve a child's awareness for things around them, and in return be able to communicate their feelings and thoughts more spontaneously.

Ryan Cayabyab The Music Studio has music courses that can enhance and improve children's abilities not only in music but in other areas of development. Music and Movement courses for children three to seven years old will soon have Saturday classes at the Music Studio at Sunvar Plaza, Amorsolo corner Arnaiz sts., Makati City. Individual piano and voice lessons for children and adults are offered all year round. For inquiries, call 8443330 or 8432874.)



TWO FOR THE SHOW

Jessica Soho tapes in Pakistan

By Mary Ann A. Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

JESSICA Soho is a much-awarded broadcast journalist because she goes to great lengths to give her audience a deeper perspective of issues. But she initially had doubts about having her own TV show, "Jessica Soho Reports" because she was comfortable with her monthly reports on "I-Witness."

"I loved doing 'I-Witness' because it was my baby. I lobbied for a long time to get a documentary series, so I was reluctant to give it up," Jessica sighs.

For the premiere telecast of "Jessica Soho Reports," she went to Pakistan to get an overview of their culture, beliefs and lifestyle. She visited refugee and settlement camps

"The children from the refugee camps were very cute. They had blue and green eyes but they became unruly when we refused to give them money. Our tour guide told us to leave the premises when they started throwing pebbles at us.

"Some regions were controlled by tribes so I had to secure a clearance from their leader before I could enter a mosque. I also wore a burqua, to cover my head, arms and upper body. *Kailangan balot na balot ang babae doon.* If you enter their homes, you'll see that they have a separate living room for males and females. Women are not supposed to be seen in their culture," Jessica narrates.

She quickly points out though that no story is worth dying for. She adds that her job has become her life, so marriage has taken a backseat in her priorities.

"My dad asked me were I was going on my trip to Pakistan and I told him I was going to Bangkok. Half-truth, because my plane stopped in Bangkok before proceeding to Pakistan. My brother, who's based in Singapore, always called to check if I was alright.

"I can't imagine putting my husband and my kids through that same anxiety level because it's a dangerous profession. My job is my life, but no story is worth dying for," Jessica stresses.

She enjoys interviewing ordinary people more than powerful political figures. "On 'Brigada Siete' and 'I-Witness,' I like talking to ordinary folks. They don't hold back and they usually speak from the heart. No pretensions. Of course, it's a kick to interview powerful individuals but their answers are usually cerebral," Jessica clarifies.

Rica Peralejo plays another daring character

SOHO. "No story is worth dying for."

After doing "Balahibong Pusa," "Huling Paghihintay," and "Buhay Kamao," Rica Peralejo sheds her inhibitions again to play another daring character in her team-up with Mark Anthony Fernandez in "Dos Ekis."

When she agreed to play the nymphet in "Balahibong Pusa," Rica did not expect it to attract the attention of moviegoers. Her standout performance nearly upstaged Joyce Jimenez's, and suddenly she wasn't a teenybopper actress anymore.

Rica admits that she is cautious about her career moves. She doesn't want to be a mere flash-in-the-pan. Her hectic schedule prevents her from shopping, malling, watching movies and playing badminton as often as she wants to, but she is willing to make sacrifices for her career.

She complains, though, that, for her new movie, she had to dye her hair orange to be credible as a cheap dancer.

"*Palengkera at* cheap *ako dito.* I repeatedly rehearsed for my strip-dancing scene because I was so nervous. I wanted it to look real. It's my first time to bare in front of a live audience.

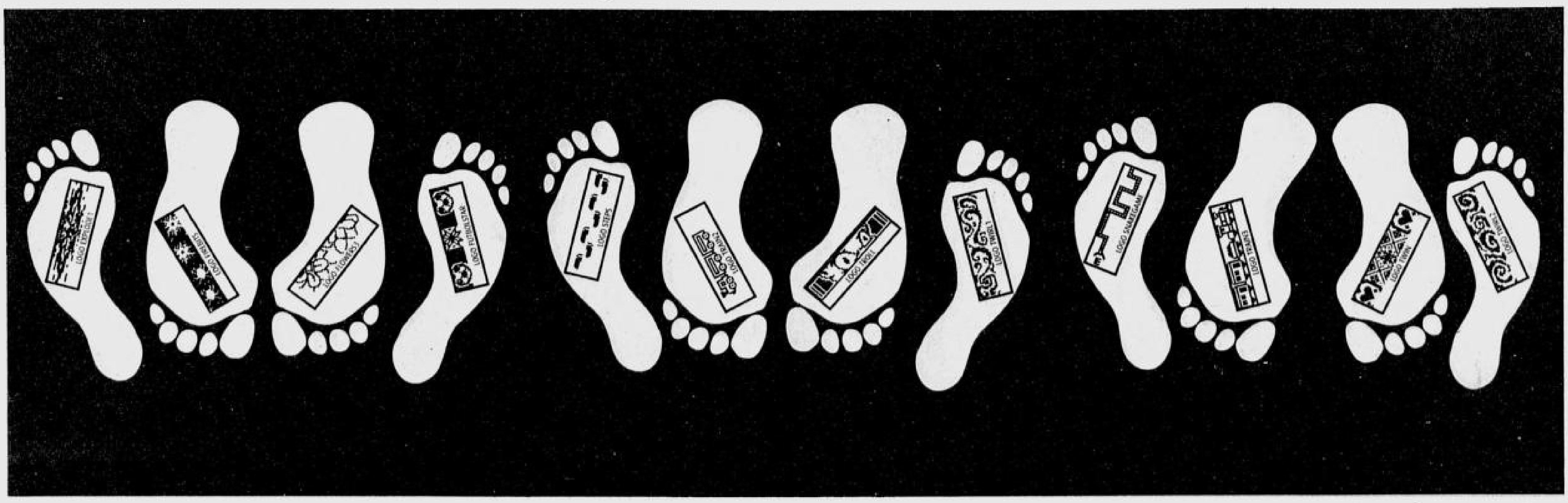
"*Medyo* skeptical *ako dito.* I don't see anything good in the world anymore, I don't trust anyone. Mark *naman* is innocent and naïve. At first, I don't trust him, but eventually his goodness wins me over," Rica describes her role.

How to distinguish between objectivity and bias

We're getting used to the obvious bias of the members of the Philippine Movie Press Club everytime they hand out their trophies for the annual Star Awards for television.

These proclivities became more glaring last

JESSICA/ p.F5



Jessica Soho tapes in Pakistan

(From page F4)

Saturday. Just look at Ricky Reyes and his "Beauty School Plus" winning the Best Lifestyle show for the 12th year. They should've chosen either "F" or "Feel at Home" instead.

Bong Revilla being declared Best Comedy Actor was an injustice to the genuine comic talents of co-nominees Michael V., Anjo Yllana, Janno Gibbs and Ogie Alcasid, who make us laugh without any effort. Other actors like Jon Santos ("Ispup"), Leo Martinez ("Ispup") and Vic Sotto ("1-For-3"), who all failed to garner nominations, are definitely better at making us laugh than Revilla.

Henry Omaga Diaz winning over Mike Enriquez for Best Male Newscaster? Are they kidding? Just review that episode when Korina Sanchez went to Australia to cover the massacre of the Filipino family and Diaz was asking her questions live—and you'll get our point.

When Yam Ledesma's name was called as the Best New Female Personality,many people present at the UP Theater asked, "Who is she?!"

In fairness, it wasn't all that bad because there were really deserving winners, like "TV Patrol's" Aljo Bendijo for Best New Male Personality, "I-Witness" for Best Documentary Program, Mona Lisa and Michael De Mesa for Best Single Performances by an Actor and Actress, Eula Valdes for Best Drama Actress, Ai-Ai de las Alas for Best Comedy Actress, "Wansapanataym" for Best Fantasy Program, and Rory Quintos' daily soap "Pangako sa 'Yo" for Best Drama Series.

Another winner we loved was Judy Ann Santos who was named the Star of the Night. Juday pulled the biggest surprise of the evening in her elegant lavender gown.

A lesson learned

Pinoy theatergoers learned a valuable lesson on politeness, decorum and basic propriety at the dress and technical rehearsals of the hit-musical "Rent" last week. Thirteen minutes before Act 2 ended, director Bobby Garcia went onstage to ask the audience to leave after continuing to disrupt the smooth flow of the theater's sound system due to too much texting.

Last Sunday, an irate member of the audience went a step too far in lambasting the director, citing the director's "diva-like" attitude for stopping the show.

The performance was a final dress rehearsal and the director had the right to stop the show at any given time, for whatever reason, for the good of the production.

Garcia allowed his cast and production team to invite their friends to watch the final rehearsal, so those who watched didn't have to dole out a single cent and the least they could've done was to behave properly.

Next time you watch a movie, stage play or concert, be considerate and shut off those annoying mobile phones. Remember that it's not only rude, it's now illegal.

Joel Trinidad feels at home onstage

Joel Trinidad has inherited some of his artistic genes from his popular dad Noel, specially his passion for stage acting.

Joel remembers appearing in a school play when he was still in kindergarten but was introduced to professional acting in a Repertory Philippines production of "Kismet" way back in 1989.

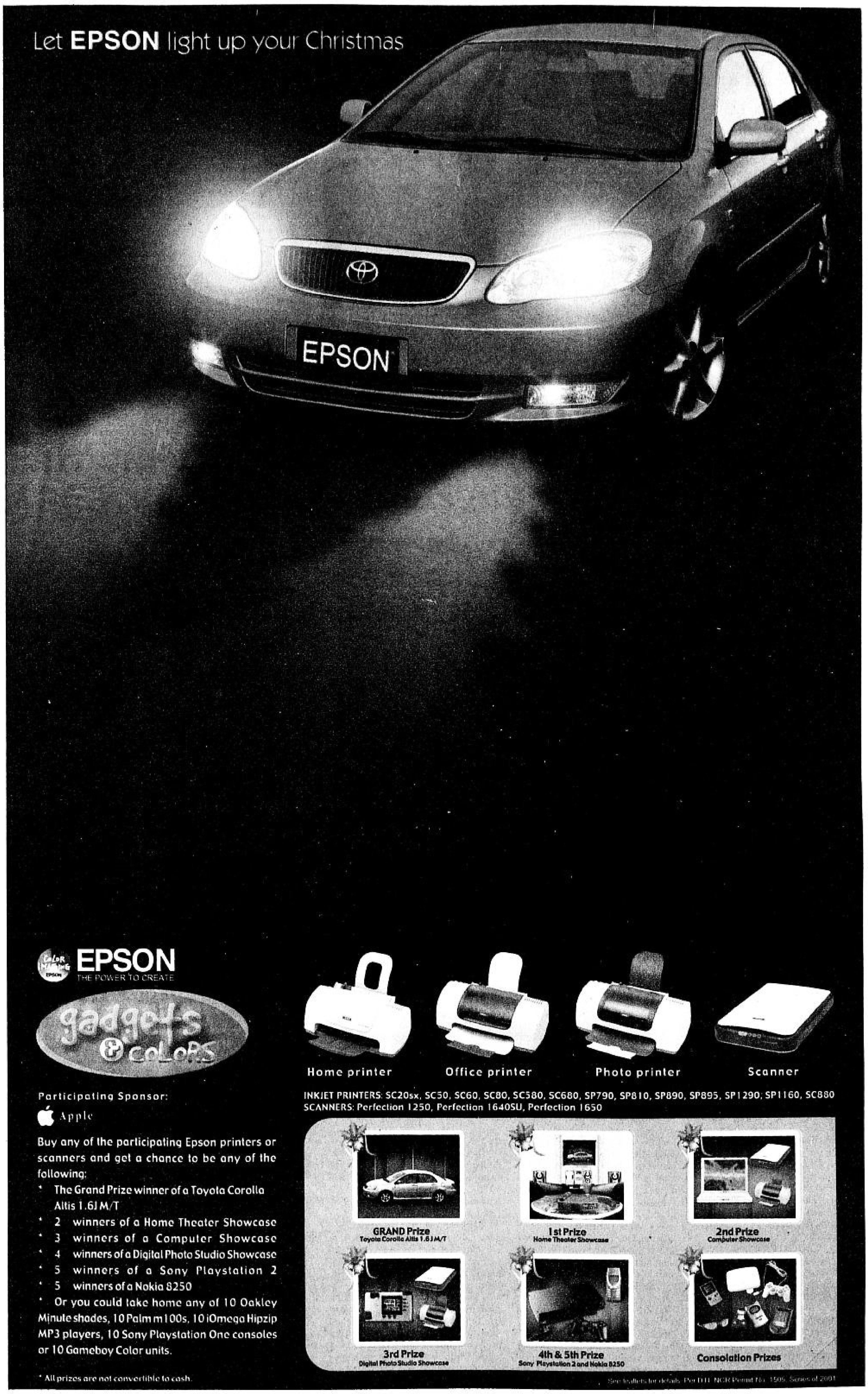
He learned not only how to play roles but also about acceptance, professionalism, discipline and respect.

He considers his performances in "Amadeus," "Over the River," "Into the Woods" and the Singapore production of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" as his best yet, but thinks that his stint with "Rent" is the most fun.

He also enjoyed his unforgettable stint in the foreign docu-drama "Noriega," where he acted opposite the highly touted Bob Hoskins.

Joel admits that his dad remains the "single most influential person in my life," and he's glad that he has been given enough freedom to be able to spread his wings. "Theater feels like a second home. I am free here, I am happy!," he exults.

TRINIDAD. Theater is his second home.



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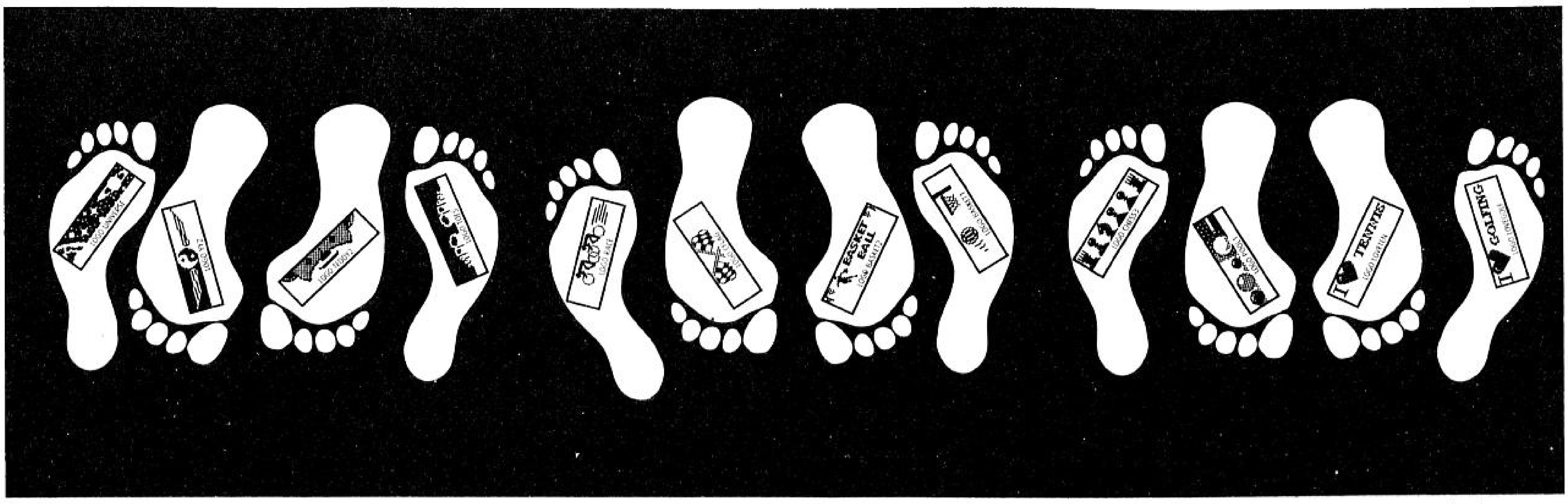
Consolation Prizes

See leaflets for details. Per DTI NCR Permit No. 1505, Series of 2001



'Imbestigador' aims to give 'Magandang Gabi, Bayan' a run for its TV ratings

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

LAST Saturday evening, Channel 7's "Imbestigador" moved from its Wednesday midnight slot to the more accessible 5:30 p.m. timeslot, replacing "Brigada Siyete" and competing directly (starting at 6 p.m.) with Channel 2's "Magandang Gabi, Bayan."

Advantage

Everyone at GMA denies that the move is meant to challenge (Senator) Noli de Castro's show on ABS-CBN in the ratings game, or at least to whittle down its advantage, but we think the video lady doth protest too much . . .

In any case, the "non-battle" has been joined and people who get exercised over competition on the tube are eagerly waiting for the next ratings announcements to see what inroads "Imbestigador" is making on "Magandang Gabi, Bayan."

For our part, we're more interested in how the two shows compare, on point of topicality, treatment, analysis and public impact. This will take about a month's worth of viewing and comparing. Today, let's start with "Imbestigador."

Postmen

Last Saturday, the show started with a lulu of an expose: some postmen in Taguig have been pilfering mail from abroad, and a raid on their homes has come up with hundreds of letters that have not just been robbed of the cash, checks and gifts they used to contain, but have also ended up nowhere.

We were struck by the little tragedies that could have resulted from all those letters' non-delivery: a child's birthday unremembered, an option not performed due to lack of funds, a wife thinking that her husband has forgotten her—etc!

"IMBESTIGADOR" host Mike Enriquez.

In any case, the culprits were caught red-handed and had to admit their sleazy culpability. But one of them floored us with the silly plea: *"Kayo na po ang bahalang umunawa sa akin."*

Victims

—Tell that to the hundreds of victims whose lives have been changed, in big ways or small, by your nasty larceny!

Host Mike Enriquez followed up with another visually active and compelling feature that had intelligence officers smoking out a suspected rebel and putative terrorist from his lair under a bridge. This time, however, the story didn't have a happy ending, because the culprit had flown the coop.

But viewers' interest was quickly revived by the third feature, involving the videotaping of a sadistic *yaya* whose idea of a good time was dribbling saliva into her little ward's mouth. Ugh!

Viewer

The *yaya* was caught in the yukky act, and the baby's parents sic-ed the law on her. This time around, the hidden-camera video wasn't originated by the show, but was sent in by a viewer. This takes the show to the new level of, uh, electronic audience participation, a potent plus point to be stressed in future episodes.

Thus, last Saturday's telecast urged viewers with home video cameras to also send in their reports, complaints, exposes—whatever. And, to show what it meant, it aired another video contribution, this time on a long-delayed street digging, and the danger it posed for children, residents, motorists, etc.

Rainwater

The digging had accumulated so much rainwater that neighborhood urchins were using it as their own, private swimming pool. This posed a clear danger to their young lives, but an official who was questioned on the subject came up with this disturbing alibi: *"Hindi mo naman mabantayan ng 24 oras."* Of course you could, Mr. Official, if you... knew how to do your job responsibly and well.

There were a couple more features that made use of the hidden camera technique to catch culprits with their pants down, their feet in their mouths, etc. The "hiddencam" has obviously become very popular with TV people and viewers because it is "reality TV" at its most basic and dramatic.

Stringent rules

All the more reason, therefore, to reconsider its flagrant, pervasive use, and to come up with stringent rules to keep its ill effects and excesses in rigorous check.

And now, for the P64,000-question: "*Can* 'Imbestigador' give 'Magandang Gabi, Bayan' some sleepless nights, now that they're competing in the same timeslot? Answer: Yes.

Levy and Palminteri play down-to-earth angels

ANGELS in films ran the gamut from heartbreaking ("Wing of Desire") to ethereal ("Always") to melancholy ("City of Angels"). In the upcoming movie "Down To Earth, audiences conditioned to expect angels as someone older, kinder and gentler, will roar with laughter and will have a fit with the onscreen angels of Eugene Levy and Chazz Palminteri.

Velvet ropes

Palminteri, as Mr. King, is the head angel for the new millennium, running heaven like the privileged club it is, with long lines behind the velvet ropes. Dressed in sharp powder blues and sounding like a Brooklyn wise guy, Palminteri is the firm, yet compassionate man in charge as God's chief lieutenant.

"I've definitely sent people to heaven in many of my movies, but this is the first time I've greeted them when they arrived," says Palminteri. "This is my first time playing an angel, and I'm really excited about it."

"Chazz is kind of like God's consigliere," says director Chris Weitz with a laugh. "The obvious way to cast this role might have been some plumy English guy. But we really liked the idea of a slightly thuggish, dangerous guy running heaven and Chazz was perfect. He's sort of an Old Testament kind of guy."

Flawed assistant

LEVY AND PALMINTERI. Heaven's odd couple.

Playing Mr. Keyes, the flawed assistant to the head angel, comic actor Eugene Levy reunites with the Weitz brothers, with whom they teamed so famously in "American Pie."

By prematurely plucking Lance Barton (played by Chris Rock) from Earth, Levy's character shows that employee evaluations are needed everywhere, even heaven. "Keyes is responsible for what gets into the big room in the sky and who doesn't. However, mistakes do happen," admits Levy. "For instance, that little screw up with Lance Barton . . . but don't worry, I'm on that." Co-director Paul Weitz was quite pleased to again collaborate with the comic veteran. "We know what to lob Eugene, comedy-wise, because we've got this great history with him," he says. "Besides working with him in 'American Pie,' we've been watching him on television since we were kids. Sometimes I think we actually have a better knowledge of his SCTV characters than he does."

"Down to Earth is a remake of the 1979 classic "Heaven Can Wait" with the screenplay of Elaine May and Warren Beatty, and stars Chris Rock, Regina King and Mark Addy.

'GHOST OF MARS'

Terrifying Martian tale of rescue and escape

BOASTING a stellar cast led by Natasha Henstridge ("Species"), Ice Cube ("Anaconda") and Jason Statham (the upcoming "The One"), Columbia Pictures' new sci-fi thriller "Ghost of Mars" is a harrowing tale of rescue and escape from a colonized Mars 175 year into the future.

Manifest destiny

Directed by thriller master John Carpenter, the film is set in Mars, 2176 AD. Long inhabited by human settlers, the Red Planet has become the dark and dangerous manifest destiny of an over-populated Earth. 640,000 people now live and work at far flung outposts all over Mars, mining the planet for its abundant natural resources. But one of those at far-flung operations has uncovered a deadly mother lode: a long-dormant Martian civilization whose warriors, now unleashed and apparently unstoppable, are systematically taking over the bodies of human intruders, bent on ridding the planet of the invaders from Earth.

Lt. Melanie Ballard (Henstridge), a veteran of two years on the Mars Police Force, is on transport assignment to Shining Canyon to bring James "Desolation" Williams (Cube), the planet's most notorious criminal, to justice. Williams has no plans to make Ballard's job easy and what begins as a battle of force and wits between cop and criminal soon turns into something more fundamental: a battle for human survival and escape from the doomed planet.

Timid rookie

Joining Lt. Ballard on the mission are Bashira (Clea Duvall), the timid rookie; Jericho (Statham), the fast talking young gun; Commander Helena Braddock (Pam Grier), the tough-as-nails veteran and Descanso (Liam Waite), the reliable soldier. When the team encounters Professor Whitlock (Joanna Cassidy) and learns of her deadly mistake—accidentally unleashing dormant evil Martian forces from an archaeological dig site—all hell breaks loose.It's civilization against civilization and Shining Canyon becomes the OK Corral—176 years into the future—as Ballard and Williams join forces in mortal combat with the "Ghost of Mars."

HENSTRIDGE. Plays a police officer in 2176 AD.

"Basic human nature will follow us to wherever we decide t live," says legendary sci-fi and horror filmmaker John Carpenter, an artist aptly acknowledged as "the master of terror." "There will be cops and outlaws, demons and saints, good and bad. And in some instances, the line between good and evil might be blurred." That's how Carpenter describes his thoughts on the future colonization of other planets.

Bruised

And it explains why Lt. Melanie Ballard of the Mars Police Force finds herself bruised, beaten—and handcuffed to a chair in front of a Board of Inquisition in the Martian city of Chryse.

A series of bizarre events has been taking place on Mars. Whole towns are being destroyed, entire populations wiped out. The latest area to be devastated is the mining town of Shining Canyon, and Lt. Ballard seems to be the only survivor of yet another mysterious massacre. The board is demanding answers. What a story Lt. Ballard will tell...

"Since the mid-eighties I've wanted to do a story about Mars," says Carpenter, whose credits include tales of the apocalypse ("Escape From LA.," "Escape from New York "), the terrifying ("Halloween," "The Fog") and the supernatural ("Vampires"), "The Things"). "For centuries the planet has symbolized so many things to us—blood, war, love and passion. Additionally, I had a story about a cop and a crook bonding together to fight the forces of evil."

Survival

"John's movies are always rooted in humanity," says producer Sandy King, "with themes of emotional as well as literal survival. He likes to take the unlikely person and make him the hero. He takes the criminal and makes him the saint, takes the cop and corrupts him, and takes the outside logic that we *want* to go by and challenges it."

But as human and personal as "Ghost of Mars" proves to be, it is, above all, a John Carpenter movie, with perhaps even more of the action, terror and horror that have been the hallmarks of his body of work.

"Earth's resources are finite. If the human race lasts that long, and wants to survive, it will have to venture out to other worlds," says John Carpenter. "Mars seems to be the most likely planet in our solar system to terra-form and colonize."

Is he trying to send the audience a message with this film? "Messages are what we leave on answering machines. Movies don't have messages, they have themes. Primarily, I just want the audience to watch "Ghosts of Mars" and come away having had a good time."

Guess the VJ, movies, Witches and Wizards from MTV and Petron

MTV Philippines and Petron present "MTV-Petron Tricks N Treats" on Oct. 15. For every accumulated P500 purchase of either fuel or items from Petron Treats, the consumer is entitled to an MTV Philippines sticker/raffle stub, which may contain a winning question. If answered correctly, the consumer wins a prize from MTV!

Stickers

Before the winner can claim the prize, the consumer must stick the MTV and Petron stickers onto his/her automobile. Each sticker (whether containing a winning question or not) is a raffle coupon, which will give every sticker-holder a chance to join the Grand Raffle Prize Draw, where the prizes include a home entertainment system, and a trip to Singapore!

Then, get ready for the premiere of the highly anticipated teen comedy, "American Pie 2" on Oct. 16 at Cinema 6, Glorietta 4 at 7:30 p.m. brought to you by MTV Philippines, United International Pictures, Viva International Pictures, in cooperation with GBX Footwear and Touch Mobile.

10 finalists

Starting Oct. 22, MTV Philippines, New Lux Super Rich Shampoo, Smart Communications, Lipton Ice Tea, and Mentos ask you to "Guess the VJ" as they present the 10 finalists in their nationwide VJ Hunt. Cast your vote and fax to 848-1319/848-1320. You may also send your vote to "MTV Philippines VJ Hunt 2001," P.O. Box 1696, Makati Central Post Office, or by logging onto www.mtvasia.com. There should only be one guess per entry, and closing date for entries is on Nov. 16.

On Oct.26, MTV Morning and My Globe present "Pajama Jam," an all-morning party at Wherelse? Disco, from 12:01 a.m. onwards as they lull you with easy to handle chill-house music. Catch MTV Morning with your favorite VJs every Monday to Friday, 6-7 a.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 8-9 a.m.

Finally, on Oct. 31, MTV Philippines,. Ayala Center and My Globe hold the spectacular Witches and Wizards Halloween Party. The Glorietta Activity Center will be transformed into a magical kingdom of folklore and fairy tales, where celebrity DJs take turns in spinning progressive house music while Warp presents an elaborate 25-piece collection inspired by the Witches and Wizards theme.

Dance fever hits Manila again

THE ULTIMATE place for partying and dancing is now in Libis. With its industrial look, spectacular in-house music and great people, it's one of the best places to be nowadays.

Resident DJ

With DJ John Robinson as resident DJ, who could stop the place from rocking the Libis strip? The steel and glass structure has not failed to elicit attention since it had its soft opening a few weeks ago.

What's the story behind it? Harry Tambuatco was looking for a place to rebuild his restaurants when he saw the old Mercedes Benz Showroom at Libis. "Let's have Culture Club here!" he exclaimed. He called up friends John Dizon and Joey Lerma and got affirmative and enthusiastic responses. Later on, Daphne Oseña and Joey's wife and Daphne's childhood friend Mel came in to complete the team.

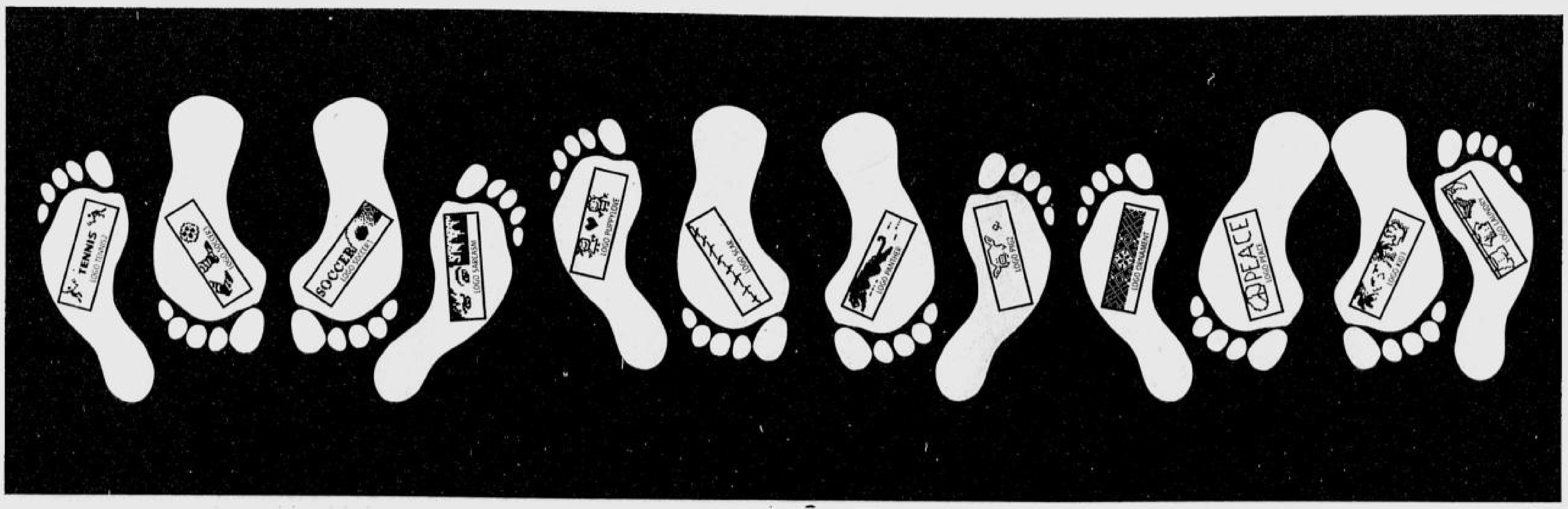
"We create the demand by having this place, and we have to absorb it," says Harry. "There are so many bars today, but many are too small, too cramped, and have no parking space. And the prices are monstrous."

The 500-sq.m area is a huge dance club. There's adequate and guarded parking at the back, which can fit about 400 cars.

Dance area

A huge part of the floor space is allotted for the dance area, with the DJ's booth on a pedestal. The industrial look is further complemented by state of the art lighting and sound system, all imported.

Another feature of Culture Club is its popular prices. Being an expert on food, Harry makes sure quality does not suffer. And the crowd? "It's a mixture of young people and yuppies who wanted to have fun, let loose and relax."



Michael Jackson to produce and star in animated film

WASHINGTON—After a two decade-long hiatus from the big screen, pop music star Michael Jackson will be a featured star of a Hollywood film, lending his voice to the animated film "The Way of the Unicorn, The Endangered One," according to US media reports.

Jackson, 42, will star in and produce the $75 million feature-length cartoon film, The Washington Post and other media reported Sunday.

Orphan

He is to play a character called "Sailor," an orphan who works with a lonely rich girl and a group of endangered animals to save the Earth.

Pre-production on film is scheduled to begin next month, said Dennis Peterson, CEO of Las Vegas-based Big International Group of Entertainment Inc. and Jackson's co-executive producer.

> He will play an orphan who works with a lonely rich girl

Peterson said the movie likely will be released across the United States by spring 2003, and signals a shift from Jackson's devotion to his music career.

Future

"This is the new Michael Jackson . . . the movie actor and producer," said Peterson. "This is Michael's future and he wants to devote his energies to it."

Jackson last appeared in a theatrical release in the 1978 musical "The Wiz" with his co-star and fellow pop singer Diana Ross. *AFP*

JACKSON. Twenty-year hiatus.

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c/o Masterminds Asia Communications
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Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center,
Pasig City
1600 Metro Manila

3. The raffle will be held on November 7, 2001 at 1605 Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 1600 Metro Manila.
4. Winners will be drawn at the raffle in the presence of a BFAD representative for the following corresponding prizes:
   - **Consolation Prize** : 10 winners get 1 glass turbo blender each
   - **THIRD PRIZE** : 5 winners get 1 microwave oven each
   - **SECOND PRIZE** : 3 winners get 1 range oven each
   - **GRAND PRIZE** : 1 winner get a Kitchen Showcase (including 1 refrigerator, 1 range oven, 1 microwave oven, 1 blender, and 1 coffeemaker)
5. A winner's name picked more than once will qualify this same winner to the prize of higher value. Another name will be drawn for the discarded prize.
6. Winners will be notified by telegram or registered mail. Their names will also appear in a congratulatory or announcement ad in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the Philippine Star and Manila Bulletin on November 19, 2001.
7. Winners may claim their respective prizes after the presentation of an identification material (office or school ID, driver's license, birth certificate, baptismal certificate, etc.) at Teope Commercial, Pasig City (see complete address above in item number 2). Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of sent telegrams or registered mails will be forfeited in favor of Teope Commercial, Philippine exclusive distributor of Sue Bee/Aunt Sue Honey, subject to the approval of the BFAD.
8. All employees of Teope Commercial (Philippine exclusive distributor of Sue Bee/Aunt Sue Honey), its suppliers, and its ad agency Masterminds Asia Communications, along with their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity/affinity, are disqualified from joining this promo.

* Items shown are not the actual prizes.

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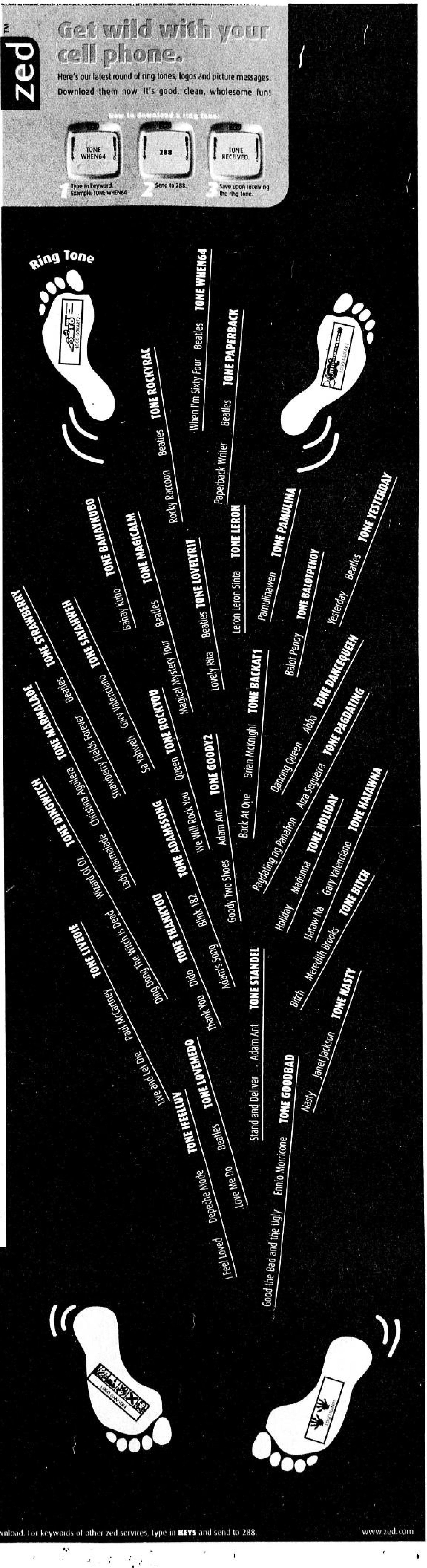

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"BYE BYE BLUE BIRD." A Danish film directed by Katrin Ottarsdottir.

Cine Europa 4 ongoing at Shangri-La's Cinema 1

AWARD-WINNING director Robbe de Hert's "Gaston's War" (Belgium) was the opening film of Cine Europa 4, a yearly film festival of contemporary, critically acclaimed European films, at its invitational opening last Oct. 9. Eleven highly acclaimed films are being featured in this year's filmfest, offered for free to the viewing public until Oct. 20.

Biography

"Gaston's War" is adapted from the biography "Gaston's War" written by Allan Mayer. The film is one of the latest works of award-winning director Robbe de Hert, who received the Grand Audience Award at the 1973 Knokke Film Festival for his feature debut film, "Camera Sutra."

"Camera Sutra" was followed by documentaries including "Death of A Sandwichman" and "Le Filet American" and other feature films like "Maria Danneels, het leven dat we droomden" (selected for Berlin), "Zware Jongens, Blueberry Hill" (selected for Panorama Berlin 1989), "Trouble in Paradise" and "Brylcream Boulevard."

It stars Wemer de Smedt (Gaston), Mapi Galan (Veronique), Stuart Laing (Harry), Oliver Windross (Doug), Sabrina Leurquin (Violette), Olivia Williams (Nicky), Sylvia Kristels (Miep Visser), Peter Firth (Major Smith), among others.

Three screenings daily

Cine Europa 4 has three screenings daily at Shangri-La Plaza's Cinèma 1. Featured are Florian Flicker's "Suzie Washington" (Austria); Robbe de Hert's "Gaston's War" (Belgium); Katrin Ottarsdottir's "Bye Bye Blue Bird" (Denmark); Karl Vaananen's "Classic" (Finland); Pierre Jolivet's "My Little Business" (France); Andreas Dresen's "Night Shapes" (Germany); Claudia Florio's "The Queen of Chess" (Italy); Jean van de Velde's "Leak" (Netherlands); Iciar Bollain's "Flowers From Another World" (Spain); Kjell-Ake Andersson's "Christmas Oratorio" (Sweden) and Michael Winterbottom's "Wonderland" (UK).

Aside from feature films, a number of the participating countries will also be showing their best short films. Cine Europa 4 is presented by the European Union and Shangri-La Plaza. For schedule inquiries call 6337851 loc. 107.

Dylan and Cash among artists on tribute album to Hank Williams Sr.

By Jim Patterson

WILLIAMS. His songs will never be outdated.

NASHVILLE, Tennessee—For many years, record company executives embellished hits compilations of Hank Williams Sr. with orchestras and choirs of background vocalists.

Misguided effort

It was a misguided effort to make Williams, who died on Jan. 1, 1953, more relevant to today's audiences.

They should have realized that songs like "Your Cheatin' Heart" and "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry" will never be outdated, so long as lovers betray each other and people wallow in depression.

Beck, Bob Dylan, Keb' Mo', Keith Richards and Johnny Cash understand. In some cases, their versions on the new Williams tribute album, "Timeless," are more rustic than the originals by Williams, which were recorded between 1947-1952.

"I could easily have gotten slick country singers of 2001 to make slick covers of Hank Williams tunes," said Luke Lewis, president of Mercury Nashville Records. "They would have lined up at the door to do it. But that wasn't what we were after."

Subsidiary label

Lewis, who made millions for Mercury as a force behind the career of pop-country superstar Shania Twain, started the Lost Highway subsidiary label—named after a Williams' song—to champion the rootsier side of country. Besides the tribute album, the label has released music by the band Whiskeytown, Lucinda Williams, Ryan Adams and actor Billy Bob Thornton.

"Part of the agenda . . . is to not make music with radio in mind," Lewis said. "I discovered Hank Williams from an obscure record by Leon Russell, 'Hank Wilson Strikes Back.' Part of my motivation is to try to do that again."

In his view, the artists on "Timeless" are singers and songwriters "who have a body of work that hopefully will be as timeless as Hank's work."

Also on the album are Adams, Sheryl Crow, Mark Knopfler, Emmylou Harris, Tom Petty and Hank's grandson Hank Williams III. Their approaches differ, except for an emphasis on the lyrics and avoidance of clutter.

Richards uses New Orleans-style horns to back his anguished vocals on "You Win Again." Beck cleverly arranges "Your Cheatin' Heart"—with its lyrics about guilt making it hard to sleep—as a lullaby.

Williams released some songs that didn't fit his usual honky-tonk music mode under the name Luke the Drifter. They were usually moral lessons, many times spoken rather than sung.

On "Timeless," Cash recites "I Dreamed About Mama Last Night," a sentimental ode to the trials of motherhood.

AP

Talented beauties vie for prizes

PALAWAN, the country's last ecological frontier, plays host to 55 beauties from Antigua to Vietnam when Ms Earth Beauty Pageant holds its talent competition on Oct. 18 at the Palawan Sports Complex, and its swimsuit competition in Dos Palmas Arreceffi Island Resort on Oct. 20.

Pristine shores

It will recalled that just a few months ago, Abu Sayaff terrorists held several guests of Dos Palmas in hostage, and brought them to Basilan. As this province of 1,738 islands aggressively lures back tourists to its pristine shores, Gov. Joel T. Reyes asserts, "Palawan is still one of the safest places to visit today, with our guests having their fill of natural wonders they can't see elsewhere in the world."

The Ms Earth Beauty Pageant, according to Peachy Veneracion, project director of Carousel Productions, which has organized the search, "promotes love and respect towards Mother Earth. So this is not just an ordinary beauty pageant.

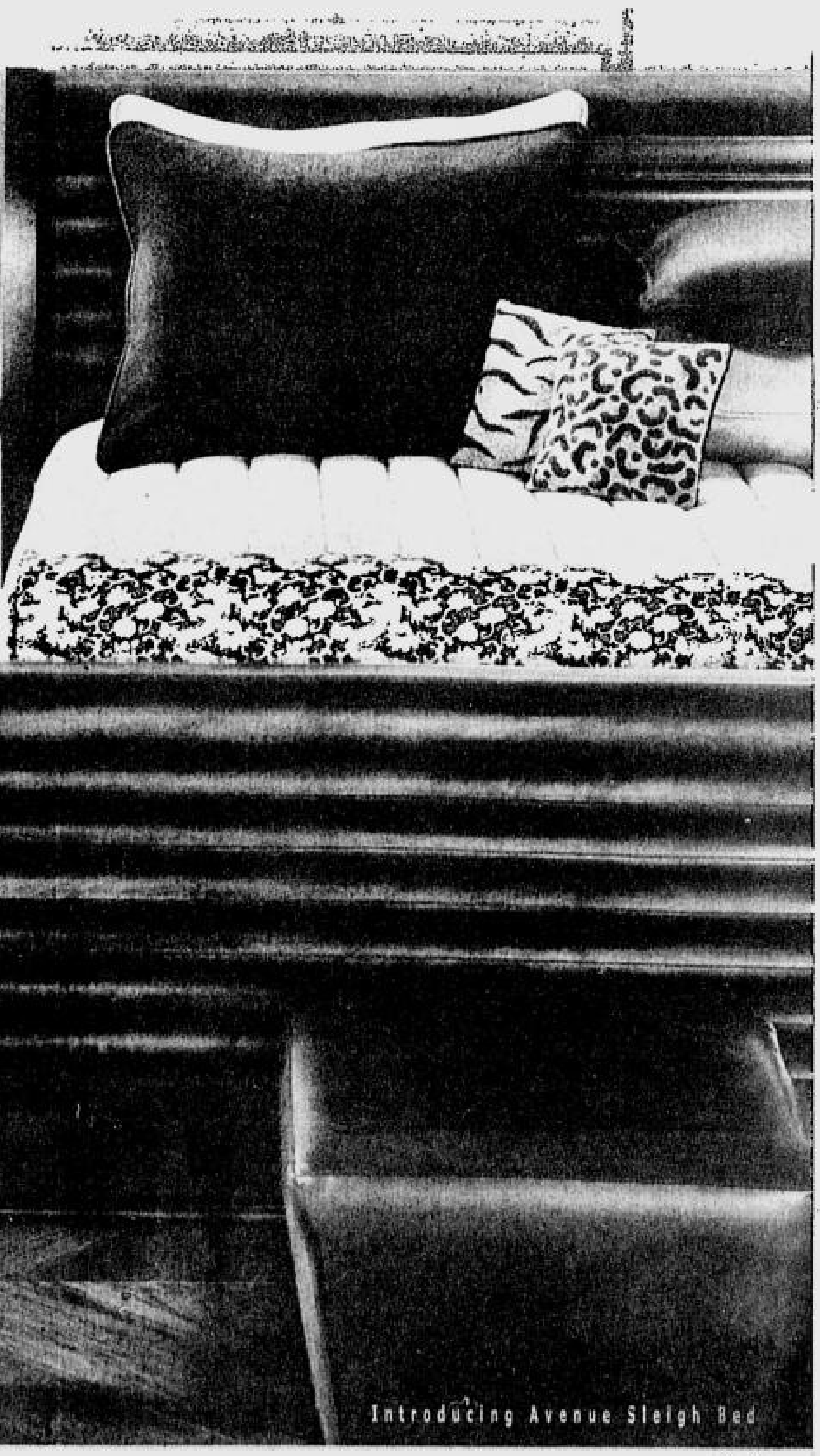
Clean living

"It is participated in by beauties for a cause, and the candidates themselves will learn and promote the value of environmental protection, conservation and clean living."

Joji Felix Velarde, who serves as official chaperone and is a well-known model and development activist, considers the tilt "a great opportunity for beautiful women to prove that they posses more than just physical qualities that make them admirable.

"It is their affinity with Mother Earth and their conviction to do their share in making this world a cleaner and healthier place to live in that sets them apart from the others."

Jojo G. Silvestre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Denzel Washington has a blast in 'Training Day'

BY CHRISTY LEMIRE

NEW YORK—As corrupt Los Angeles police detective Alonzo Harris, Denzel Washington is clearly having a blast in "Training Day." And the role is so vastly different from the good guys he's known for playing, it's just as much fun watching him.

Volatile

Alonzo is so unpredictable, so volatile, it's impossible to take your eyes off him—at least for a little while, until you begin wondering little things, such as: After 13 years on the force, what happened to him that made him this way?

That's what rookie Jake Hoyt (Ethan Hawke) wants to know, too. The whole movie takes place during Jake's first day as a narcotics officer, with Alonzo as his trainer.

And it's a really long day. Regular cops must spend years on patrol without the kind of action Jake and Alonzo see over a few hours.

Alonzo beats up suspects on the street for sport then lets them go. He visits drug dealers just to intimidate them. Then he stops by the house of an old friend (Scott Glenn) in the middle of the day, just to chat and drink whiskey.

Fascinating

When the two of them are driving around together—Alonzo behind the wheel, talking smack, Jake sitting timidly in the passenger seat, unsure how to behave—it's fascinating.

Like Jake, we don't know whether Alonzo is truly insane or he's just acting that way to scare Jake, hazing him like a fraternity pledge.

And we'd probably care about the answer to that question if we knew more about Alonzo's past. He alludes to having been idealistic long ago, to caring deeply about wanting to rid the streets of drug dealers the way Jake does now. What made him snap?

It probably wasn't greed. He steals cash from drug busts, but lives with his girlfriend and son in a small apartment in a dangerous part of the city.

It probably wasn't addiction, either. He snatches drugs from kids who trek to the 'hood for a score, but he doesn't use them himself; he forces Jake to try them instead.

Maybe he's just bad because it's more fun being bad than good.

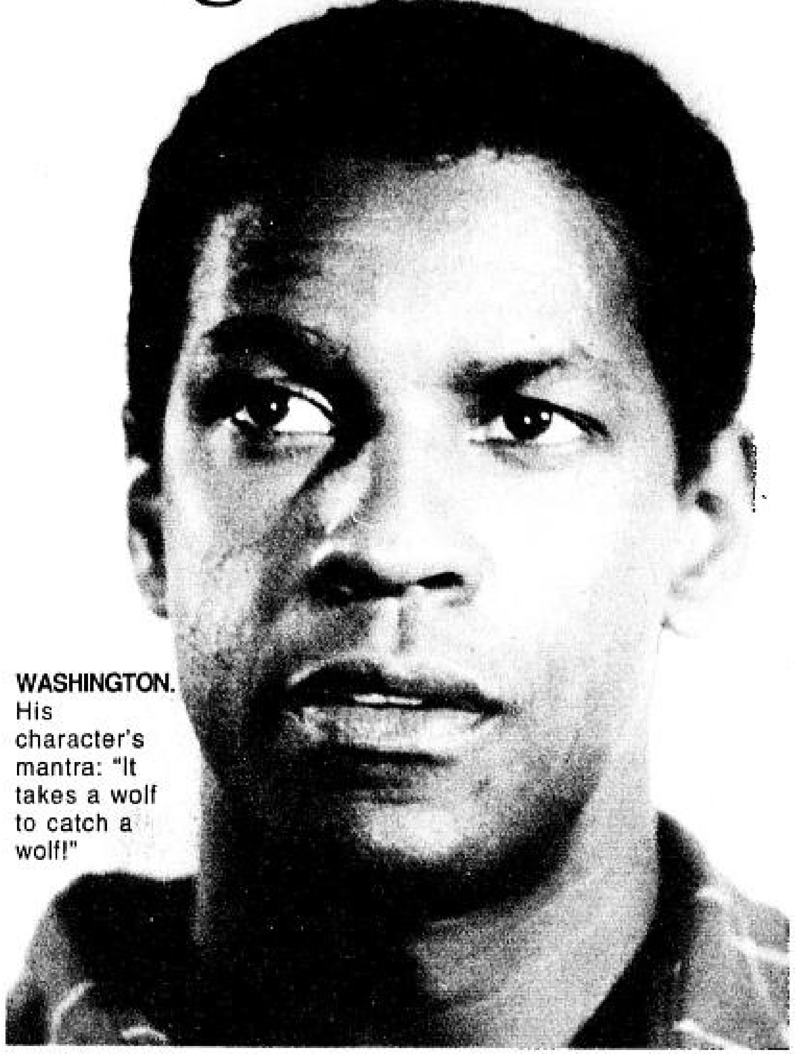
"To protect the sheep you gotta catch the wolf, and it takes a wolf to catch a wolf." That's Alonzo's mantra, which is far catchier than "To protect and to serve."

Young officer

Hawke's upstanding, moral young officer has to be low-key in contrast to Washington's. But screenwriter David Ayer doesn't flesh him out, either.

Director Antoine Fuqua, who made "Bait" and "The Replacement Killers," keeps a crisp pace and achieves a dark, gritty mood throughout. Then he makes the mistake of overwhelming us with a protracted, bloody shootout at the end that's totally unnecessary.

The stunt casting is gratuitous and amusing: Snoop Dogg as a wheelchair-bound crack dealer, Dr. Dre as a member of Alonzo's secret narcotic team, and Macy Gray as a strung-out, chain-smoking, gold-tooth-wearing wife of a drug dealer. *AP*



WASHINGTON. His character's mantra: "It takes a wolf to catch a wolf!"

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Marilou Diaz-Abaya details involvement in 'Jose Rizal' in Yomiuri Shimbun interview

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

EARLIER this month, Marilou Diaz-Abaya was in Tokyo, Japan to promote her acclaimed film, "Jose Rizal," which will be shown at Tokyo's famous Iwanami Hall starting this December—the first Filipino film to be given that exceptional showcase.

Numerous interviews

To drum up interest in the film, Marilou had to do numerous interviews with reporters from the biggest newspapers and magazines in Japan. We were able to sit in on the first interview, with Mr. Hideki Sukenari of the Yomiuri Shimbun, which has a circulation of *10 million!*

Marilou had come to Tokyo straight from Fukuoka City, where she had received her prestigious Asian Culture Prize and was further honored with a retrospective at the Fukuoka filmfest. Asked how the festival had gone, she enthusiastically reported that it had had a great opening film, "Baran," which was bout Afghan refugees in Iran.

She further noted that the filmfest had opened two days after the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, so interest in the film had been heightened. Also, her own new production, "Bagong Buwan," (original working title, "Mindanao"), dealt with the Muslim-Christian conflict in the Philippine south.

DIAZ-ABAYA AND "JOSE RIZAL" POSTER. She was initially reluctant to direct the film because it was so big.

Would the terrorist attacks affect filmmaking? "It will affect *everything,*" Marilou succinctly replied. "Life won't be the same from now on!"

It turned out that the interviewer had seen "Jose Rizal" prior to the interview, and he shared that he had enjoyed it immensely, and that it had moved him, especially the last scene. How, he wanted to know, did Marilou get involved in the monumental production?

She ticked off the events leading up to her making the film, and shared that she was initially reluctant to direct it, because it was so big and the public's expectations were even greater. Eventually, though, she agreed to do the film.

Bu the more difficult decision was, what *about* Rizal did she want to dramatize? It was eventually decided that the focus would be on Rizal's writings, with the hero having conversations with the characters in his two novels, which had a great impact on Filipinos' decision to mount a revolution against Spain.

How, the reporter wanted to know, did Marilou and her scriptwriters research such a complex man like Rizal? She detailed the extensive and exhaustive process, but emphasized that she had learned most of all from perusing the novels written in Rizal's own handwriting.

Creative process

She was able to get into his creative process and mind-set from seeing how the writing had progressed, what had been erased or revised, etc. It became clearer on which issues Rizal was particularly sure of himself. In fact, some 30 percent of "Noli Me Tangere" had erasures, and there were even more in "El Filibusterismo."

"Rizal's deep dilemma," Marilou pointed out, "was between his loyalty to Spain and his realization that the Indios deserved to be free. But even deeper was the dilemma between faith and the new liberal ideas spreading at the time through Europe—spiritualism versus humanism.

Unresolved

"It was unresolved in his heart until just before his execution. Only then did he achieve the serenity he craved.

"His 'Ultimo Adios,' which by the way has no corrections, finally integrates the contradictions in his life. It says that each one of us is destined to man his post and, either through peaceful or revolutionary means, to devote his life to his homeland."

With the Yomiuri Shimbun's huge circulation (the biggest in the world), we can expect many film lovers in Japan to become interested in viewing "Jose Rizal" when it plays at Iwanami Hall this December 2001 and January 2002.

'Don't Say A Word' is a riveting psychological thriller

ON Thanksgiving Day, psychiatrist Dr. Nathan Conrad discovers his young daughter has been kidnapped. The ransom demand is a tad peculiar: in just eight hours, Conrad must rouse a catatonic woman and get from her a secret six-digit number combination.

What follows is a riveting psychological, mystery thriller that will keep audiences at the edge of their seats. Twentieth Century Fox presents Michael Douglas in the gripping blockbuster "Don't Say a Word."

Successful practice

In the film, preeminent New York psychiatrist Conrad (Douglas) has a successful practice, a beautiful wife and a charming daughter. Making his way home to begin a tranquil Thanksgiving holiday, Conrad is summoned by a colleague to examine a young woman. Elisabeth Burrows (Brittany Murphy) presents a history of unexplained violence and a miasma of failed treatments and misdiagnoses. In short, Elisabeth is the kind of case Nathan used to live for before he went "uptown." Now, he is Elisabeth's last chance before she is shipped off to a purgatory of state institutionalization.

Nathan's skills and intuition make headway into Elisabeth's case, and his curiosity is further aroused by her mysterious first words to him: "You want what they want, don't you? . . . I'll never tell . . .any of you."

Little does Nathan suspect that Elisabeth and her cryptic message are tied to a danger that has closed in on him and his family. Nathan's daughter has been kidnapped by ruthless thieves, and to save her, he somehow must unlock a six-digit number locked away in Elisabeth's troubled mind. There is no discussion, no negotiation. With his daughter's captors watching his every move, Nathan is trapped in a nightmare even he could never have envisioned. And as Nathan is reminded constantly by his tormentors: if he wants to see his daughter alive, he dare not say a single word.

Novelist Andrew Klavan, who received the Mystery Writers of America's "Edgar" award for best mystery novel of the year, for "Don't Say A Word," draws inspiration for his nerve-shattering adventure tales from a variety of sources—even a new-born baby. After his daughter's birth, he would awaken every few hours each night to check on her. "One night," Klavan remembers, "I wondered, 'What if I looked in . . . and she was gone?"

Disturbing thought

From that disturbing thought—representing every parent's nightmare—"the basics of the story unrolled in front of me." Much to the chagrin of his wife, Klavan set the story in his own New York apartment.

When Klavan completed "Don't Say A Word," the motion picture rights were grabbed by producers Arnold and Anne Kopelson. One of the industry's most distinguished and successful producers, Arnold Kopelson, a former art and music student, is recognized for his abilities to visualize a film's look, from reading a novel or script.

Inno Sotto takes a page from the movies

LIGHTS dim, the film rolls and flashing onscreen are images for cineastes and film lovers. But it is not Saturday Late Night at the Movies, instead, it is Sunday, cocktail hour, an Inno Sotto night to remember!

Icon

Indeed, in his latest show, *the* Inno Sotto takes his cue from the world of make-believe. On either side of the screen is a willowy graphic rendition of a woman painted golden and resembling the Oscar statuette. Even the screen sports the icon.

Music drifts in, familiar movie themes ushering in reed-thin females and males. One realizes that some of the men come from the movies—Mark Anthony Fernandez and Piolo.

Today, they are mere hangers for the Inno Sotto label. This is the master's show, "Inno Sotto On Red Carpet" at the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel. And it is an impressive, classy production.

Braless look

Like the movies, the clothes run the gamut of everyday wearable and funwear, to "sexy formal" for the ladies. The braless look has become blasé, so a boob peeks out now and then, no big deal.

But Inno's show is safe, no brinkmanship here, even if a flapping skirt teases a bit. Elegance is a keyword, and wearability is another. A bold peacock feather. A dramatically encrusted faux diamond pin. Belts looped low twice around the hips for effect.

The wonder of an Inno Sotto ensemble is that, stripped down to the basics, his creations are flawlessly classic. Like the movies, right? Take away the lavish costumes and the grand production and we remember films for the honesty of the performances and their unforgettable lines.

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

Romantic

This is Inno Sotto's first show of the year. It is a romantic and gentle passage in his life, and this shows in his renditions. But the master is not mellowing. It has always been his way: Simple, uncluttered lines, but nothing crisp or brittle. But always something a Grace Kelly or an Audrey Hepburn would want to wear.

It is no wonder that his sponsors are names just as respectable. Philippine Daily Inquirer, Swatch and Evian, to name a few. Seated together, INQUIRER's Marixi Prieto and Swatch's Virgie Ramos beam and look approvingly at the silhouettes on the runway.

Virgie Ramos has her moment of fun when she raffles away some 10 Swatch watches in her Swatch booth. The much-loved Ms Ming Ramos walks in, is invited to draw a piece of paper from a glass bowl, and she wins a Swatch! Ms Bea Zobel de Ayala and her pack of princesses, KitKat, Sofia, and Lizzie, are all winners, too.

Happy endings, just like the movies. The runway show has that, too, when Inno Sotto is given a standing ovation.

And no one misses the popcorn.

FINAL ensemble with Inno Sotto.

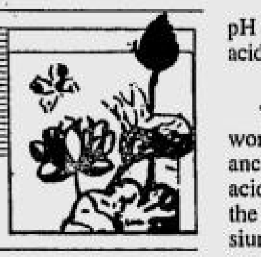
SPECIAL GUESTS. From left, Jo Ramos, former first lady Ming Ramos and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez and her mom, Inquirer board chairman Marixi Prieto. The Inquirer was one of the major sponsors of Sotto's show.

How to avoid osteoporosis

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia



I FEEL very grateful whenever I read something that destroys a misconception that I have. Such was my experience when I came across the Malaysian Vegnews issue that contained the article "Osteoporosis and the Calcium Myth." I am sharing the very useful information with you, to help you attain improved health:

Calcium

"Since the 1950s, Australians have experienced an ever-increasing osteoporosis epidemic. It was identified many years ago that, for some reason, middle postmenopausal women and older men were losing calcium from their bones. As the calcium was lost, the bones became more porous until they became quite fragile and 'chalky.'

"Quite a few older women have come to grief following a fall in which they had fractured a pelvis, an injury from which they were not likely to recover. Just an old age symptom? Our dieticians have responded by telling everyone, women especially, that they need to eat food that is rich in calcium to prevent the disease.

"Current figures show that this has done little to stem the growth of the disease. The Australian RDI (recommended daily intake) for calcium is 800 mg per day. There is strong pressure to raise it to 1200 mg per day as scientists search in vain for a cure for this disease.

"So is it a disease of old age? The answer lies in looking around the rest of the world. It is correct to say that osteoporosis is a degenerative disease. When one sees the number of other degenerative diseases which exist in late 20th-century Australia, we should not rule out the fact that perhaps our bodies are succumbing to our modern lifestyle.

"Research into African populations reveals some startling facts. The women of the Bantu race in Africa do not suffer from osteoporosis. Furthermore, a broken bone is so rare, that if one occurs, it is big news. These women, who on average produce nine children in a lifetime, present remarkable bone density.

"So, how much calcium are they getting? On average, 350 mg per day. So why do we get osteoporosis when our average daily consumption of calcium is nearly four times higher than the Bantus? The simple reason is that calcium intake has nothing to do with osteoporosis. We have to ask what is causing our bones to surrender their calcium.

Reliable research

"All of the reliable research of the past 15 years has proven conclusively, exactly what causes osteoporosis. Unfortunately, we don't hear too much about this research because there is no one really interested in spending money on advertising campaigns to warn us. In fact, quite the opposite is happening.

The problem stems from the amount of protein we consume, especially animal protein as found in meat, dairy products, poultry and fish. You see, the human body has very low protein requirements. We cannot store excess protein. So, once protein is digested and converted down to amino acids, if not used, it is left circulating in the blood. If the volume of amino acids and their by-products accumulate in the blood, the blood pH drops i.e. the blood becomes very acidic.

State of balance

"The human body is constantly working to maintain a state of balance. When the blood becomes too acidic, in an effort to balance the pH, the blood draws calcium and magnesium from the bones, as these are the two most readily available alkaline substances in the body.

"The more protein we eat, the more calcium our blood draws from our bones. The end result is high levels of uric acid, calcium and magnesium in the urine. It is very simple, very basic biochemistry. Countless experiments over the years have proven that women, when fed a meal high in animal protein, lose large volumes of these vital minerals in the urine over the hours following the meal. Fed a meal dominated by plant products, there is little or no calcium in the urine.

"A very real fact is that pure vegetarians do not get osteoporosis. To prevent osteoporosis, simply eat a diet that consists of a variety of foods from the true, four food groups. These are grains, legumes, fruit and vegetables. You will get enough protein, and plenty of all the refined alternatives, and other nutrients you require. Make sure you eat whole foods, whenever possible and choose organically grown, non-genetically engineered produce.

"Good health is attained not by eating more and more but by eating in proper amounts what the body truly needs. When we learn about natural lifestyles, we can increasingly appreciate the simple and basic ways to keep our body fit. So let's junk the misconceptions and live the enlightened, healthy life. Spread the truth, not the myths!"

'X-static' concert is for the youth

BY JOCELYN VALLE

ACCORDING to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), October is youth month. To let everyone know about it, Marylouise International Productions is putting on a youth-oriented show titled "X-static" that features Gary Valenciano, Lani Misalucha, Aiza Seguerra, Carol Banawa, Karylle, Piolo Pascual and Donita Rose at the Araneta Coliseum on Oct. 19.

Performers

Judging from the line-up of performers, it is safe to say that the audience will be spared from silly production numbers that, supposedly, are the only things that young people can deliver.

Floy Quintos, who is credited for the concert's concept and stage direction, assures us that Gary V, Lani, Aiza, Carol and Karylle will be dishing out their hits. "*Pero meron ding mga* moments *na akma sa sitwasyon natin ngayon,*" he points out. He cites Lani's medley that includes "Panis Angelicum," segueing to "The Light of the Million Mornings."

The latter, says Floy, is a song that befits "X-static's" youthful theme. "It talks about having faith in times of extreme darkness," he explains.

Hope

If he could tell the youth one thing, what would it be? "That there's plenty of hope in this world," exclaims Floy. "It's not the time to let our morale go down. *Maraming dapat ikabuhay at marami ang hindi dapat ika*-depress. *At nasa atin 'yan.* It's a message of empowerment, in short."

For his part, Gary V would like to tell the youth to dream. "I know that, with the events that have taken place, it feels like there's nothing much to look forward to, but there always is. But don't dream alone," he cautions.

'X STATIC' performers (from left), Aiza Seguerra, Karylle, Gary V, Carol Banawa, Lani Misalucha and Piolo Pascual.

Gary V admits that he's not sure how the production will come together. "I know I'm gonna say something. I'll study and think carefully of what I can say because this is a great opportunity to reach out to the youth," he tells us. "But I think it's not only through me that the concert is able to say something. It'll be through everybody else."

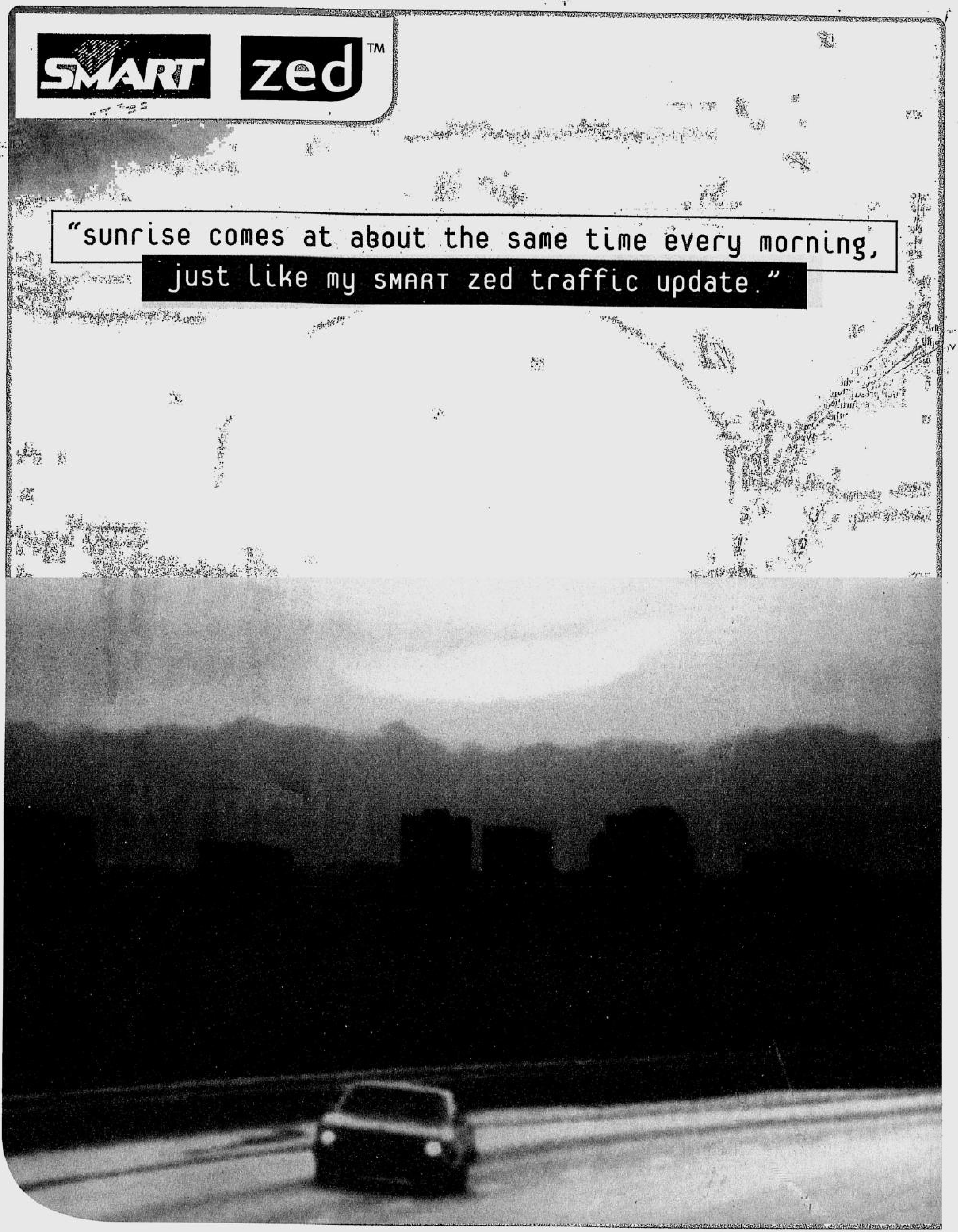
"I may be the ambassador of goodwill," he continues, "but the others also have things to say."

Natural

Young singers Carol Banawa and Karylle agree. Carol would like to tell people her age to live on. "It's only natural to be scared about what's going on around the world," she offers. "But life doesn't stop there. Live life to the fullest *hangga't kaya mo!*"

Karylle, meanwhile, says that she will remind her fellow youngsters to look out for each other.

"In Theology class, we watched a film about child labor. I realized that being young doesn't only mean being carefree. We have a responsibility to take care of other young people 'coz not everyone is as fortunate as we are."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Ayala cinema pushes innovation further with cinematheque

By Veron Dionisio

ONCE in a while a film buff longs for something different, something unconventional, not the usual stuff mainstream cinema frequently offers.

One screen

It's a good thing Ayala Cinemas devote one screen at Glorietta 4 to films that have usually had limited release abroad.

Aptly named ArtFilm, this venue was conceived by Ayala Theater Management Inc. as a fitting showcase for some of the best films in the world, albeit their lack of commercial appeal. It has provided the viewing public more choices in the films they watch.

"In the beginning, *medyo mahina* but we chose to stick with it, and as time went by, it has developed a strong following," recalls David L. Rafael, Ayala Cinema's EVP. "In fact, there are times when it outperforms some commercial films."

With the success of ArtFilm, Rafael shares that they are pushing the innovation further by providing another venue for more experimental and non-commercial films. "We would call it Cinematheque," he beams. "We hope to formally launch it next year."

FILM buffs at a Glorietta screening.

Big risk

Are they about to commit financial suicide? "At first, we could say that it's a big risk. But we've done it with ArtFilm.

"So it's the same with Cinematheque, *sa una hindi papasukin ng tao*. But we've always believed that with the proper material, venue, marketing and promotions, we can develop a market for these films."

This optimism comes from his long experience in theater management. He observes that the Filipino film audience has developed a taste for quality films.

"Contrary to popular belief, Filipinos still want to watch films. We have films that were really huge hits like "Pangako Sa 'Yo" with Regine Velasquez and Aga Muhlach. *Apat na linggo ipinalabas 'yan dito.*

"However, it's now value for money. Because times are hard, people opt for films with quality *and* entertainment value."

Cinematheque is almost a done deal. "The only thing we need to be assured of is the film supply. We have to make sure that everyday, 365 days a year, there will be films of this type that we can exhibit," he smiles.

Distributors

This early, Rafael discloses that he's been talking to independent filmmakers here and abroad, coordinating with embassies, and with distributors of independent films.

This is good news for Filipino alternative cinema. Digital films that are now being made by Star Cinema could also have a regular run at Cinematheque. But why venture into this when the film industry is in such bad shape? "This is our way of helping to revive the industry. Because, if the industry fails, everybody will be affected, including us," Rafael says.

Forgiving and forgetting

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

THIS is the hardest column to write. For a while, I seriously thought of writing about someone or something else. It's just that, I know that I owe this to Ricky Belmonte.

Comatose

I was jolted out of my Sunday lethargy two weeks ago when a friend texted me to pray for Ricky, who was comatose in a hospital. Later, I learned from his cousin Tirso Cruz II that, as he was making small talk with his sister Beth after breakfast in the latter's house in BF Homes, Parañaque where he lived, Ricky complained of a severe headache.

He was bought to a nearby clinic. When his blood pressure couldn't be stabilized, he was rushed to the Parañaque Medical Hospital where he slipped into a coma.

His family debated over whether to pull out his life support system or not, but Ricky spared them the agony of deciding on his fate. Three days later, he died.

All the while, I thought I knew him well. Funny how we get to unravel the knotted threads of a person's life only when he is already dead. It's sad when we come across certain previously unknown truths meshed together with well-told lies in a tapestry that's the sum total of a man's brief sojourn on this earth.

Ricky was a friend. I remember him as Mr. Clean. He was always freshly scrubbed and sweet-smelling. And his half-smile was a knockout that made women swoon. He had pearly white teeth, and I always wondered why no one got him for a toothpaste commercial. He had the Close Up smile long before there was Close Up!

Ricky was a dapper dresser. Early in his career, he was a ramp model. He was the one who made the turtleneck shirt trendy in the late '60s.

Surprise gift

He gained a place on my short list of show biz friends when, on one of the many anniversary celebrations of "See-True," he brought a surprise gift—a song he had written for me. He had just come from Malaysia at the time. Lifting the lilting melody of a Malaysian tune, he strung together the words for "Inday Badiday, *Pakikay-kikay*"—which I used as the theme song of all my radio programs since Broadcast City days.

He came across as a good, responsible husband and father. I fondly recall the time I interviewed him for the first time in his Valle Verde home and he happily toured me through all the rooms, giving cheery notes and comments about each one as we went along.

The image of Ricky as a family man stuck. Why his wife Rosemarie chose to separate from him after many years of wedded bliss has, to this day, remained a mystery to me. That mystery, along with many other secrets, is better left buried with Ricky.

Ricky was never famous as a serious actor. But he was a star. He had his share of fame, which reached its peak during those "Rositik Loves Rikitik" days of giggly love teams, gigglier fans and giggliest movies that owed most of their success to the cuteness of their stars.

Show business throbbed in Ricky's veins. Up to the week he died, he was active in the job he loved. He adapted well to the changing tastes and trends in the movies. He tried them all.

Craze

He sang and danced when that was the craze. He gamely disrobed when skin was in. When soap operas caught televiewers' fancy, he did that, too.

Perhaps, Ricky's biggest contribution to the entertainment industry was the 747 band that he formed with the musically gifted Cruz clan. Last Monday, the day after Ricky was brought to his final resting place, the band returned to its regular gig at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin.

The show went on, as it always must for real troupers. But there was a sadness as one gazed at the empty space onstage where Ricky used to be.

There was a lot of sadness in Ricky's life. In fact, he bequeathed a legacy of loneliness to the family he has left behind, not just in tears but also in pain.

Renzo, the eldest child, confided to me that, in the wee hours of that fateful Wednesday, he talked on the phone with mom Rosemarie and sister Sheryl, who were both in the US. He asked them to talk with Ricky, who must have already been traversing to the Great Divide. It was after that heart-wrenching farewell dialogue that Ricky breathed his last.

I hoped that would be the moment of denouement, the season for forgiving and forgetting, the time for reknotting the severed threads of a love betrayed by decisions and choices one had to make and live by. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be.

Wake

One the first night of the wake, I went to pay my last respects to Ricky. Immediately, I noticed the all-too-conspicuous absence of Rosemarie's name on the ribbonettes pinned on the coffin cover.

Then the gossip columns made much of the statement reportedly issued by Geneva Cruz which went something like, "My *tito* was so nice. His children didn't deserve him to be their father."

RICKY (center) with his children (L-R) Patrick, Sheryl and Renzo.

After that, Ricky's brother Danny was also reported to have given a statement on television for his niece and nephew: "Sheryl and Patrick, *sana matahimik kayo pagkatapos ng ginawa n'yo sa ama ninyo.*"

The issue, of course, was the collective decision of Rosemarie, Sheryl and Patrick not to come home for Ricky's funeral, which went against the grain of the Filipino custom of the entire family coming together to bury a deceased loved one.

Speculations flew thick, sometimes bordering on the ridiculous. Like, Sheryl couldn't go home because she feared her plane might be hijacked by Osama bin Laden's gang of terrorists! Of course, the more likely reason was her delicate condition after her very recent childbirth.

Recriminations

The recriminations and bottled-up pain curdled and bubbled. It must have been too much for young Renzo to bear. After the funeral mass for his dad, he reportedly went up to the lectern to say, "*Napakabait ng papa ko sa mga kapatid at kaibigan niya. Pero sa aming pamilya niya, nagkulang siya.*"

After that, he tightly and tearfully hugged his Tito Ronnie (Poe) and Tita Susan (Roces). Angge, Ricky's number one fan and friend, went out of the chapel to wring the tears out of her handkerchief, and cry some more.

Ricky's life story is a movie script waiting to be written. It has all the highs and lows of drama sure to spell victory at the box-office anytime.

But then again, what for? Sometimes, when the pain is too deep, the best things to do is to just sigh, forgive and forget, and pray for God to grant us the grace to move on. The dead are dead. It's up to us, the living, to pick ourselves up and bring together again the remaining fragments of our broken lives. Unless we choose to start dying even as we still breathe.

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Junior INQUIRER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2001 ◆ 12 PAGES ◆ VOLUME 5, NUMBER 53

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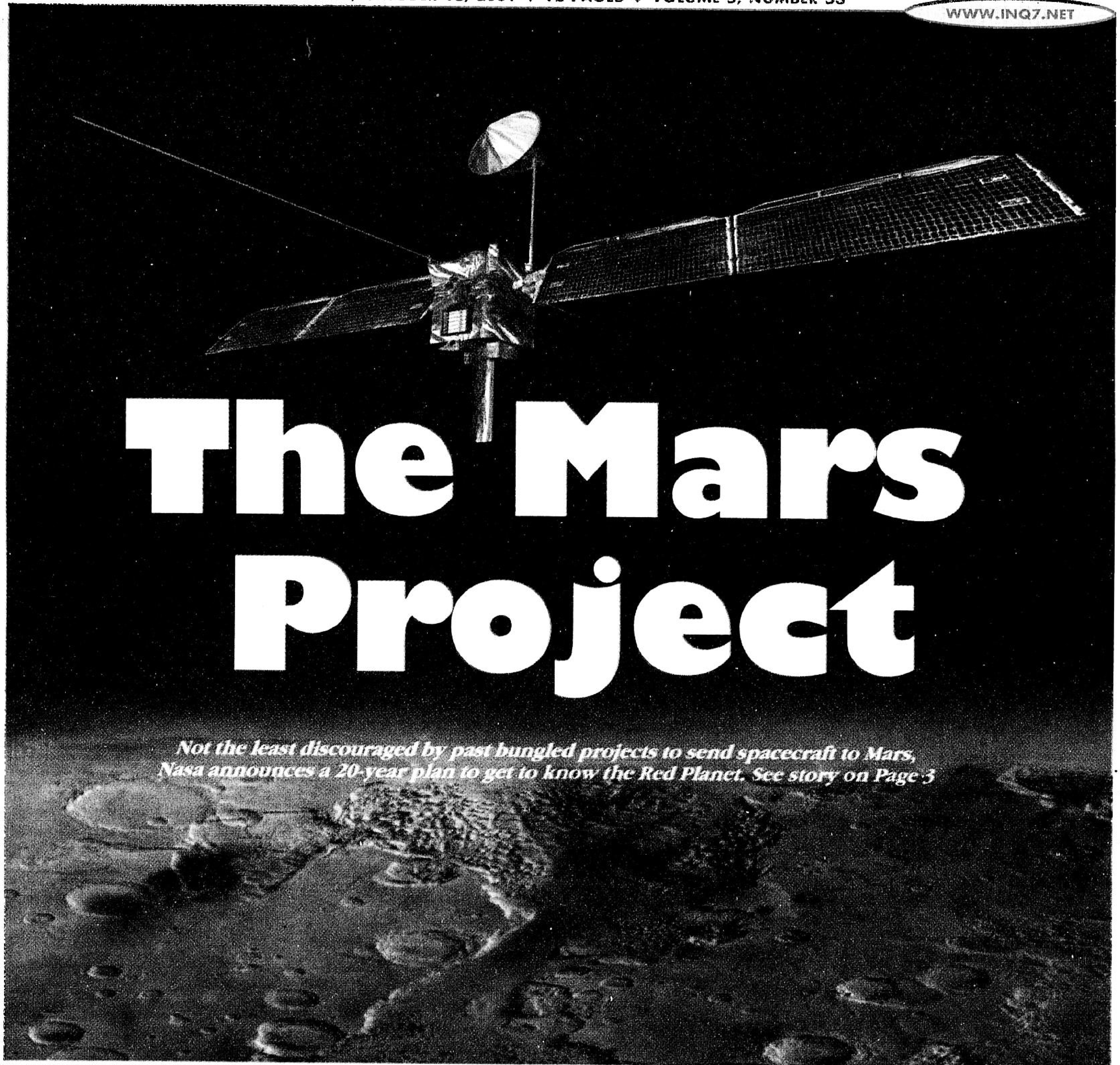


The Mars Project

Not the least discouraged by past bungled projects to send spacecraft to Mars, Nasa announces a 20-year plan to get to know the Red Planet. See story on Page 3

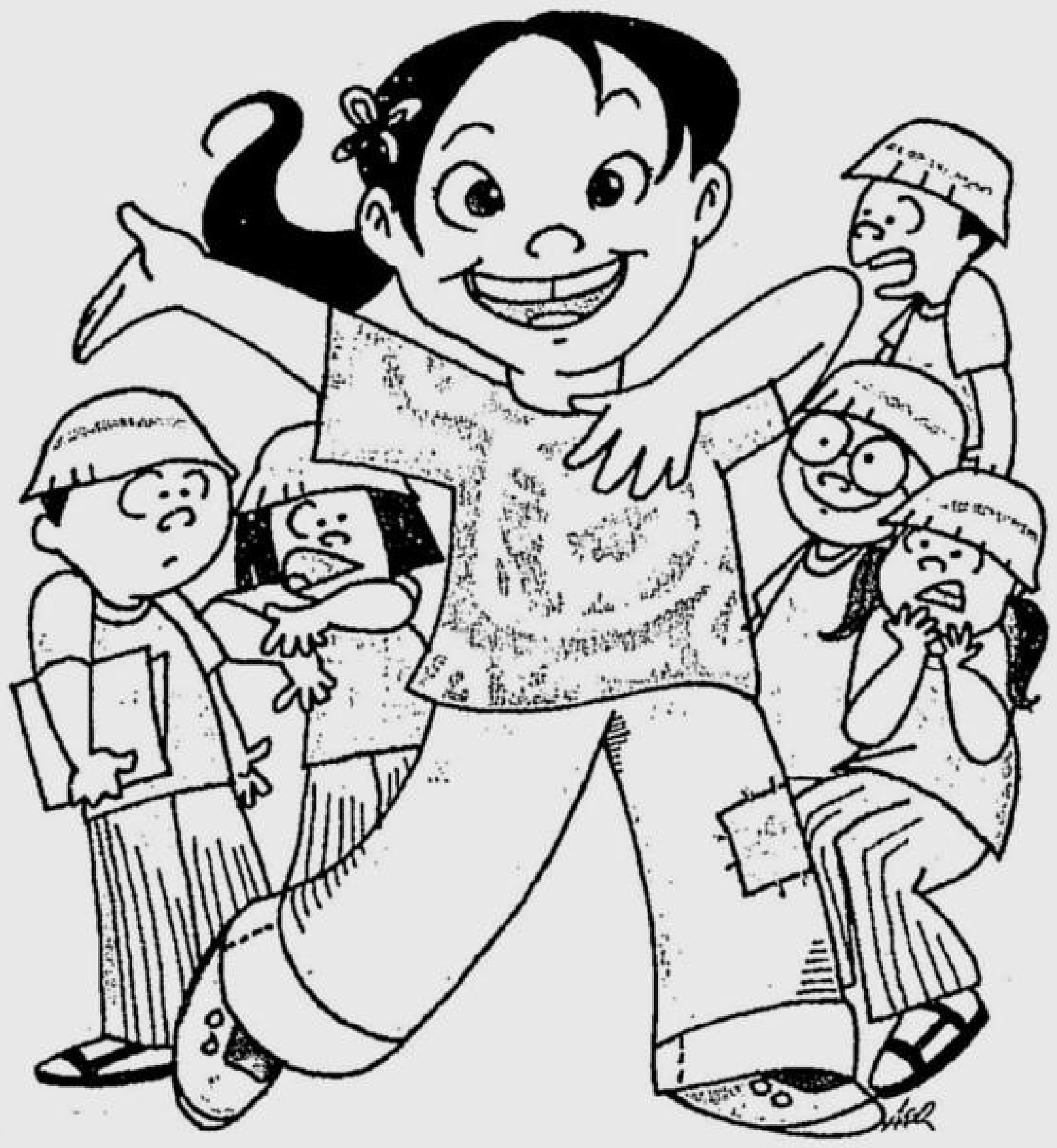
THAT'S ONE HEAVY CAMERA! This is an artist's conception of the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter that Nasa plans to send to Mars in 2005. The craft will snap the sharpest pictures yet of the Red Planet's surface. The Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter will be a virtual Martian spy satellite, capable of picking out objects as little as 8 inches across on the planet's surface, including locations where water is thought to have flowed in the recent past. The 3,970-pound Mars satellite will carry a total of six science instruments to probe the planet's atmosphere, surface and subsurface with a degree of detail previously available only to landing spacecraft.

AP

Journal Pages

It's Cool to be You

By Stephanie C. Ferrer
St. Joseph's College
Quezon City



YOU see Nokia's new 8250 and you just have to have it! All of your friends are going to the "biggest party of the year" you tell your parents and you just have to go. You see your class president wearing a new cool outfit and you just have to buy it.

Everyone wants to belong. But you can't always follow whatever is popular because everyone else is doing it.

I'm not saying that it's bad to buy that pair of sandals, but do you really want it? Or are you just buying it because everybody else is? You don't have to follow all the fads just to be cool and accepted.

Oftentimes, people want to be like everybody else because they're afraid to be themselves and be different. They're afraid to be left out.

So, what do you? You have to face your fears and be yourself. Someone said that "If you want to be different you must stand up for it."

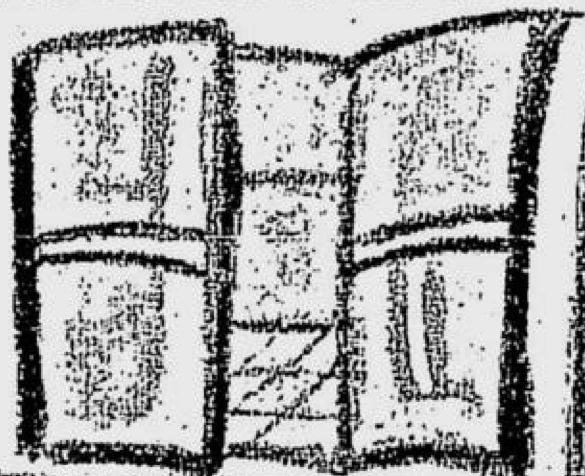
Never be afraid of what people might say about you and the things you do because that's what makes you special. You might even be a good model that everyone else can follow. You don't have to be sexy and tall to be loved. Being cool lies in being yourself. You are best being true to yourself.

My grandfather once told me "In order to excel, do things that others are not doing." I received this text message from a friend "Dance like no one is watching. Love like you will never get hurt. Sing like no one is listening. Live like it is heaven on earth!" And always remember: It's cool to be you!

Sound Familiar?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



For or By Kids

DEAR Editor,

Please do add more stories! I really love them. They give me a lot of good ideas. Even small children will also love this. And some update of Harry Potter please.—**ISABELLA DE CASTRO**, Miriam College, Quezon City

Hope for Our Government

DEAR Editor,

I was doing my homework and was browsing through the INQUIRER newspaper when I found this short article titled: "Indonesia told to stop graft." Then I told myself, our country needs to be told about this too.

After Edsa 2, I thought the government would change. I thought people in our country would realize that the Philippines needs improvement in everything. We have so much corruption in our country and in our government. It's shameful that a very rich country as ours is experiencing poverty.

I pray that our leaders will realize that they are supposedly serving the country and not serving themselves. I pray that the government will act on this and that my fellow Filipinos will do the same thing. I hope that someday, I will see the Philippines in prosperity that we have been wanting ever since.—**JEAN MARIONNE A. BERMUDEZ**, Assumption Antipolo

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The Mars Project

WHEN it comes to sending spacecraft to Mars, Nasa has been as about successful as the Wily Coyote is in catching the Road Runner.

First, Nasa lost the $125 million Mars Climate Orbiter in October 1999. Math errors spun the craft into the wrong trajectory, and it was never heard from again.

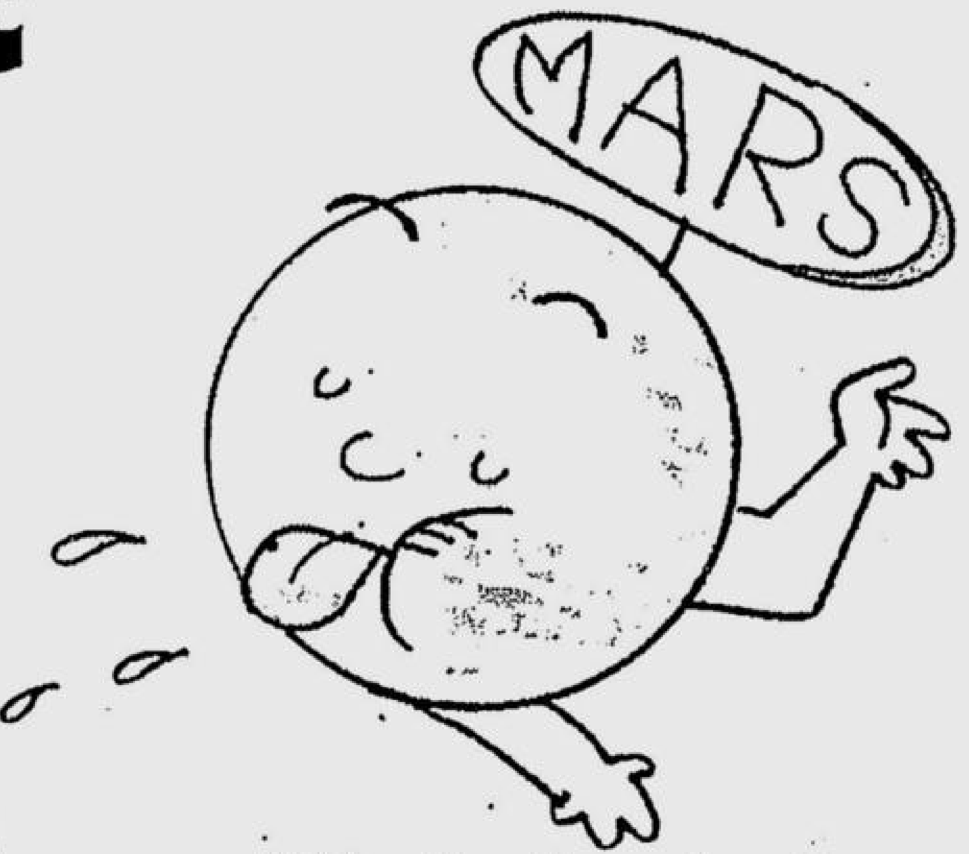
Then the $165 million Mars Polar Lander died a mysterious death a few months later, apparently crashing into a canyon.

But Nasa isn't giving up on the Red Planet. Just two weeks ago, it announced a 20-year plan to send robotic landers to crawl the surface of Mars and remote-controlled balloons or airplanes to explore the Red Planet's skies.

That means six missions over the next decade, including a 2005 launch of the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, which scientists predict will be able to record images of surface objects as small as Tupperware containers.

"It's an alien world full of surprises," said Scott Hubbard, Nasa's Mars program director.

Mars has plenty of solid water in its polar ice caps and in water vapor in its atmosphere. But if liquid water exists, or did exist, that raises the tantalizing prospect of life—extant or extinct—in another world. ***AP***



What's the plan?

2001: Launch of a Mars Odyssey Orbiter, which will continue to map the planet.

2003: Two Mars Exploration Rovers to look for water.

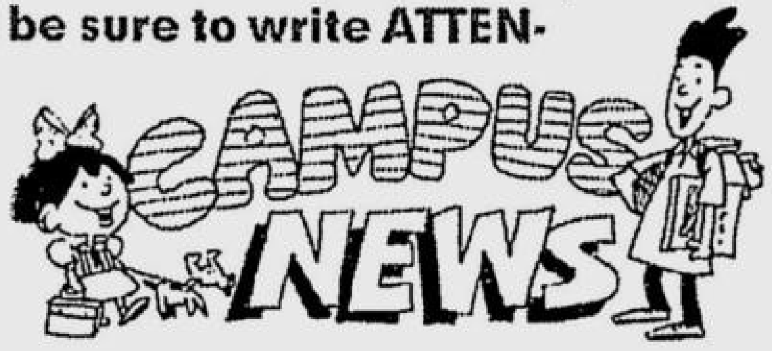
2005: A Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, with the ability to image objects as small as 8 to 12 inches.

2007: A "Scout" mission that could include a balloon or an airplane.

2014: An attempt to collect a sample of Martian soil and rock and return it to the United States. Officials estimate that the total sample size would be between 4 and 6 pounds.

Any news from YOUR SCHOOL?

Young campus journalists can fax their typewritten articles to JI at 897-4793 up to 94. Include your name, school and contact number and be sure to write ATTENTION: JUNIOR INQUIRER on top of your article. See YOUR news articles on the Junior Inquirer!



Franciscan Joy

BY STEPHANIE C. FERRER
JI CORRESPONDENT
ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

DO you know St. Francis of Assisi? I'm almost too sure that you do. On Oct. 3, St. Joseph's College celebrated the feast of St. Francis of Assisi by the program that we called "Franciscan Joy" and had a Mass the day before.

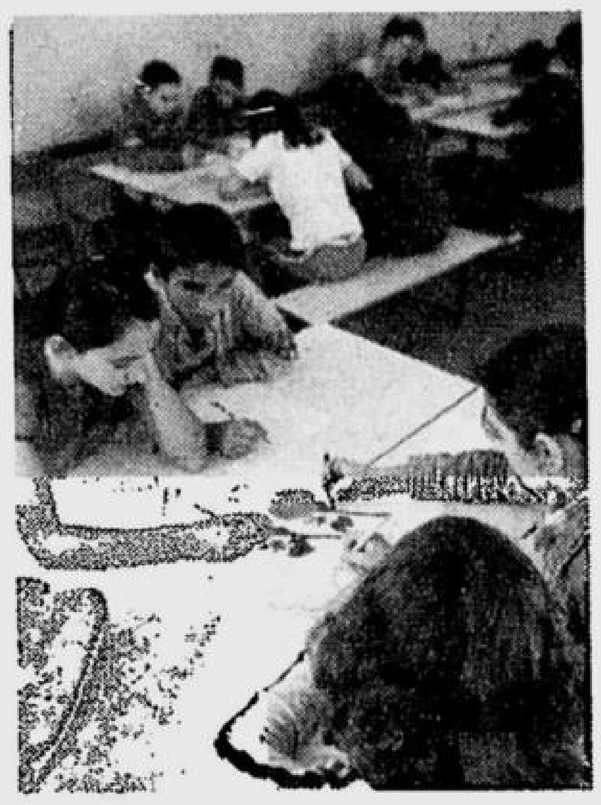
Because St. Francis is our patron saint, every section of the Kinder-Grade School Department and the Day High School Department celebrated the event with a program. The theme of the event was "Ako, Ikaw, Tayo Daan ng Kapayapaan." In the Day-High School Department, there were contests such as "Poster Making" and the "Best-decorated bulletin board."

The classroom was decorated and there were games, prizes, special numbers, and lots of food. Many people, including teachers were invited to join the feast. But most of all the Franciscan spirit touched everyone and it's meaning engraved in their hearts and minds. It was a truly joyous day.

now open!
rides!
swimming pool!
fun
and more fun!
starland
theme park & resort
Butterfly
house & museum
Skating
rink
4th floor
Metropolis star
Alabang
along south superhighway
tel: 850.4283
543.3964

WORLD SCOPE

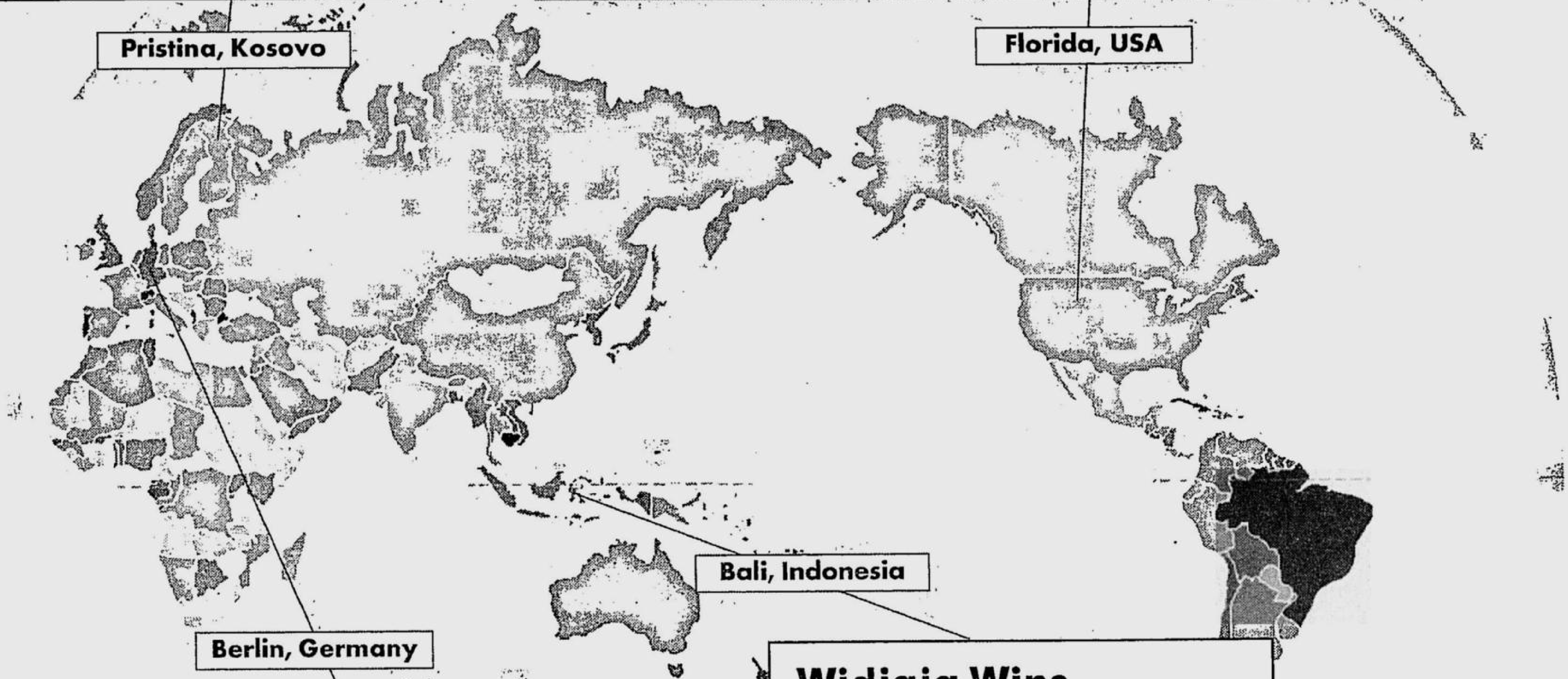
Art that Cares



ETHNIC Albanian students make art dedicated to people in America who lost family members in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Still shaken by the terror that gripped Kosovo during a crackdown on ethnic Albanians, Pristina's schoolchildren are sending American youngsters crayon drawings and watercolors to comfort them. ***AP***

Leaf peepers

TWO tourists from Texas take in the view of the first few trees that are changing colors for autumn. The couple said the recent terrorist attacks in the US east coast did not dissuade them from making their yearly trip to see the trees of the Vermont Mountains. ***AP***

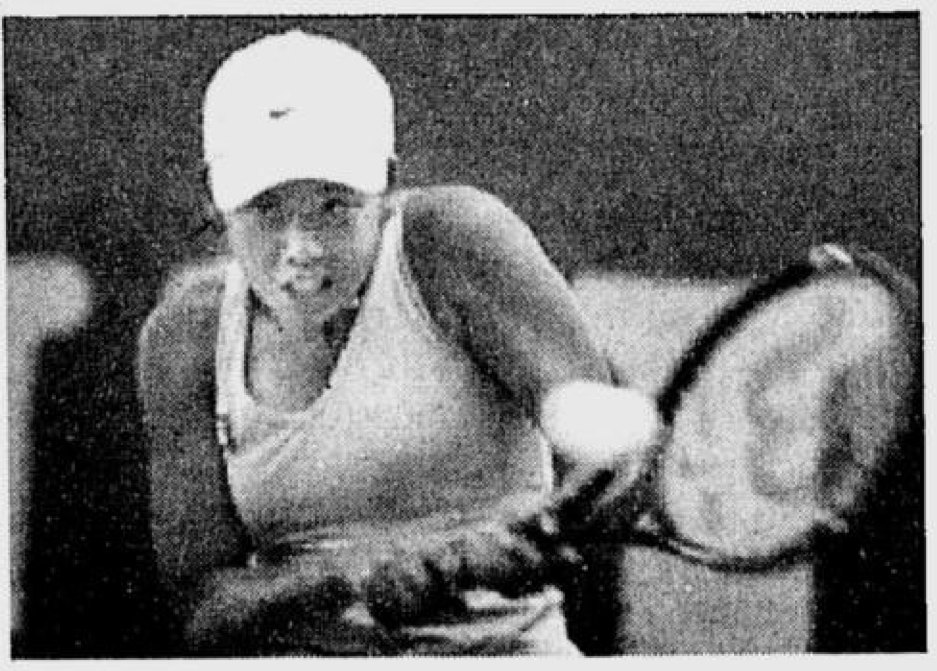


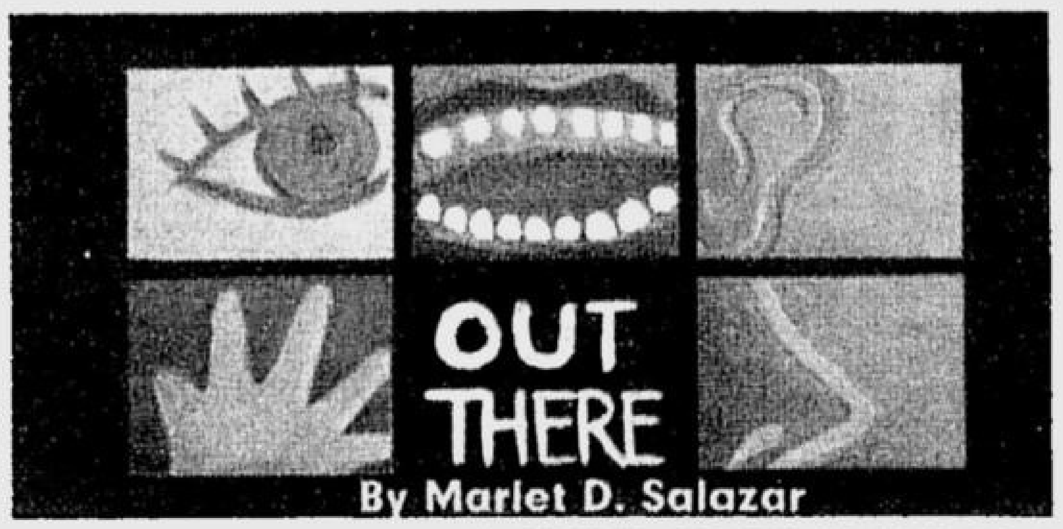
Run for Peace

JAPAN'S Naoko Takahashi reacts after winning the Berlin marathon. Around 37,000 runners took part in the marathon with the slogan "Run for Peace". Takahashi set a new world record at 2:19.45. ***AP***

Widjaja Wins

INDONESIA'S Angelique Widjaja winces as she drives the tennis ball back to the opponent's side. The 16-year-old Widjaja beat eight-seeded Joannette Kruger of South Africa and won the Wismilak International Women's Tennis Tournament. ***AP***





By Marlet D. Salazar

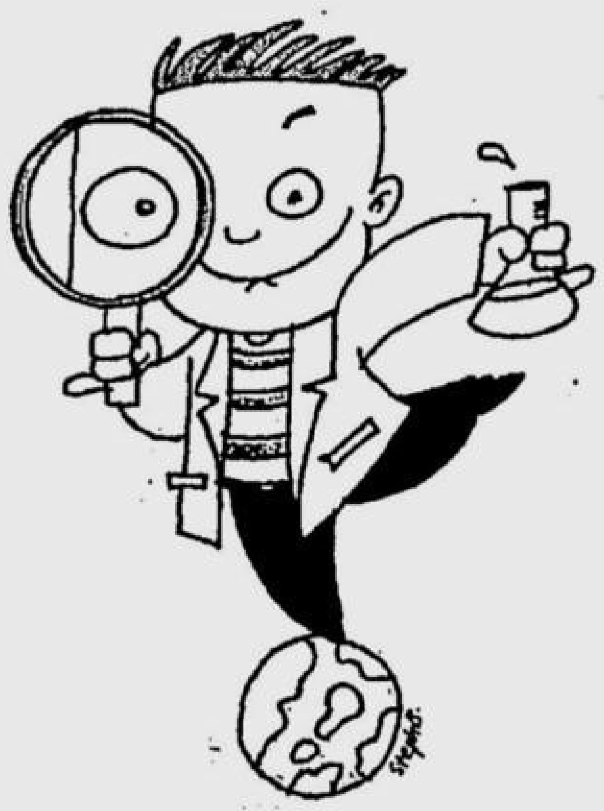
Got something for Out There?

Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Contest

TEEN LIT CAMP. Adarna House and Filipinas Heritage Library invites all teens ages 13-16 to submit their works in fiction, essay or poetry, and vie for a slot in the 2nd Annual Teen Lit Camp. It is a week-long out-of-town camp for teen writers. The Camp will feature talks by established writers, discussions, and other activities related to writing. For more info call up 372-3548 or 49 or send an email to adarnahouse@adarna.com.ph

Activities



SCIENCE CLUB. The Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs invites all elementary and high school students to join the science club movement. Call up 920-9561 and 920-8174 or write to 317 C. David's Place, Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Check out their website www.psysc.org. Deadline's on Oct. 31.

EASTWOOD FUN FAIR. If you live at the Eastwood City Walk, Eastwood City, E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Libis, Quezon City, join in the Family Fun Fair 2 tomorrow. Enjoy face painting, games, puppet shows, fireworks and there'll also be raffle prizes. There will also be a clown and magician to entertain you. Admission is free. Fun starts at 9 a.m. The fair's sponsored by Fusion, the bundled services of BayanTel, Sky Internet, ZPDee and SckyCable.

PRE-HALLOWEEN PARTY. Dress up and be a part of Sacred Heart School Shangri-La's Halloween Costume Party on Oct. 20, 3 p.m. at the Mini Atrium of Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Edsa corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City. The activities include face painting, storytelling, magic show and exciting games and surprises. Register now! For inquiries call up 636-1277 or 631-9759.

SCHOOLS' MUSICAL COMPETITION. Watch the Inter-School Musical Competition as presented by the Jollibee Kids Workshop Club in celebration of Children's month. The contest will be held at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall today at 10 a.m. and on Oct. 20 at 10 a.m. Participating schools include: Cainta Catholic College, ACE Montessori, ADT Montessori, San Lorenzo Ruiz Elementary School, Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila, Cainta Elementary School, Santolan Elementary School, Marikina Elementary School, Baptist Academy of the Philippines, Manggahan Elementary School and Sto. Niño Elementary School. For more details call up Ms Rianne Torefranca at 681-5132 or 681-7320.

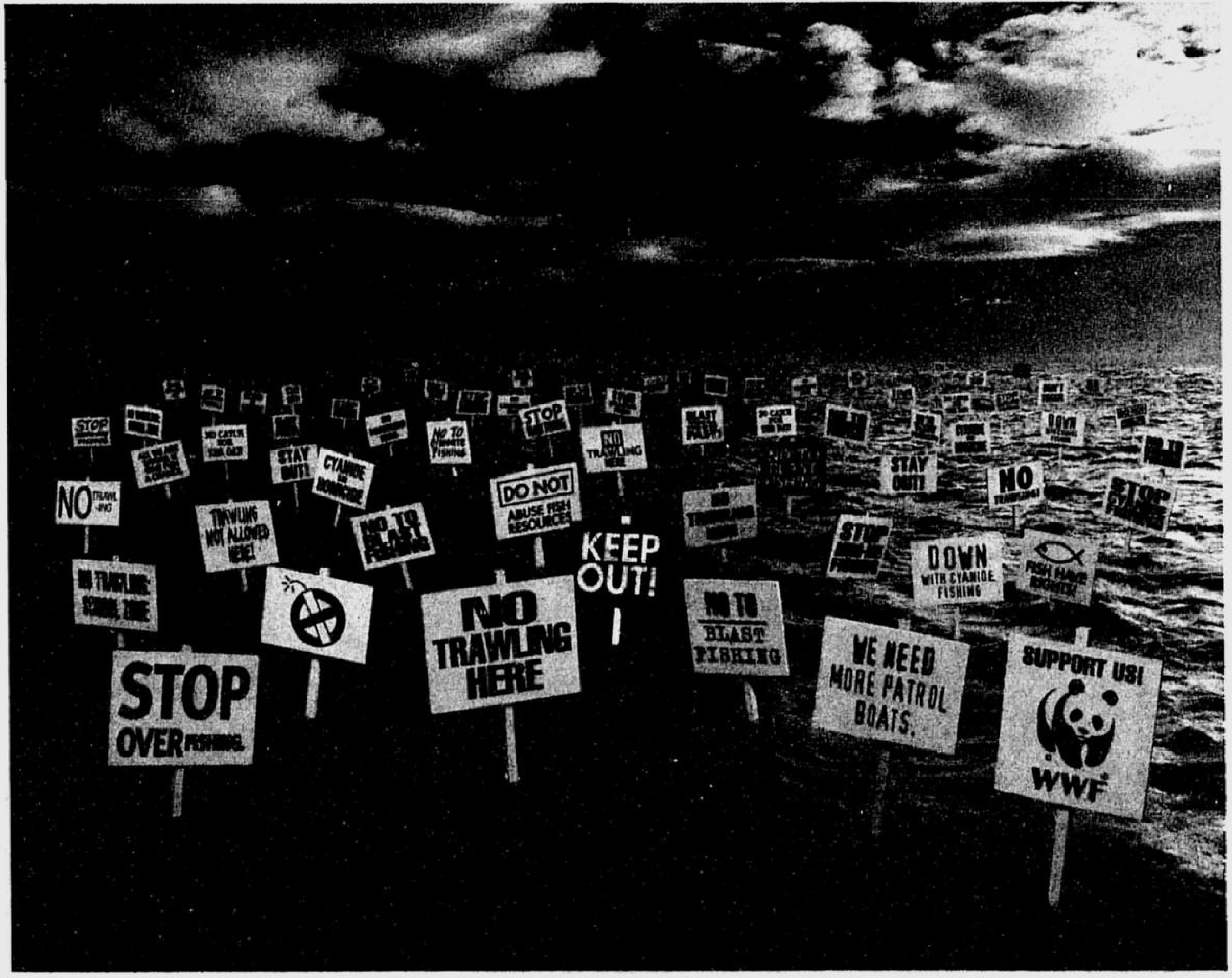
Workshops

SCIENCE CAMP. Check out the Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs' 6th National Children's Science Interactive Workshop. It will be held on Oct. 23-27 at Leyte Park Resort, Tacloban, Leyte. This year's theme is "The Earth: 75% Water, 100% Life!" The five-day science camp will showcase workshops, hands-on experiments, games and other fun-filled activities designed to promote deeper appreciation for water ecosystems among elementary students. This activity will also include exposure trips to historic and scenic spots in Leyte. For more info call up PSYSC at 920-8174 or 920-9561.

Cable Picks

RED CRABS, CRAZY ANTS. Witness a battle of survival as an indigenous fights agains the newcomers on National Geographic Channel's "Red Crabs, Crazy Ants." Each year the red crabs of Christmas Island leave the safety of the forest and migrate to the ocean to lay eggs. That's on Oct. 22 at 8 p.m.

This space was provided by Philippine Daily Inquirer, a Corporate Partner of WWF-Philippines. PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



FISH RALLY. A massive protest action is being held in Philippine waters against the harm caused by illegal and destructive fishing practices. The organisers need your support. Donate to WWF now by calling 433 3222.

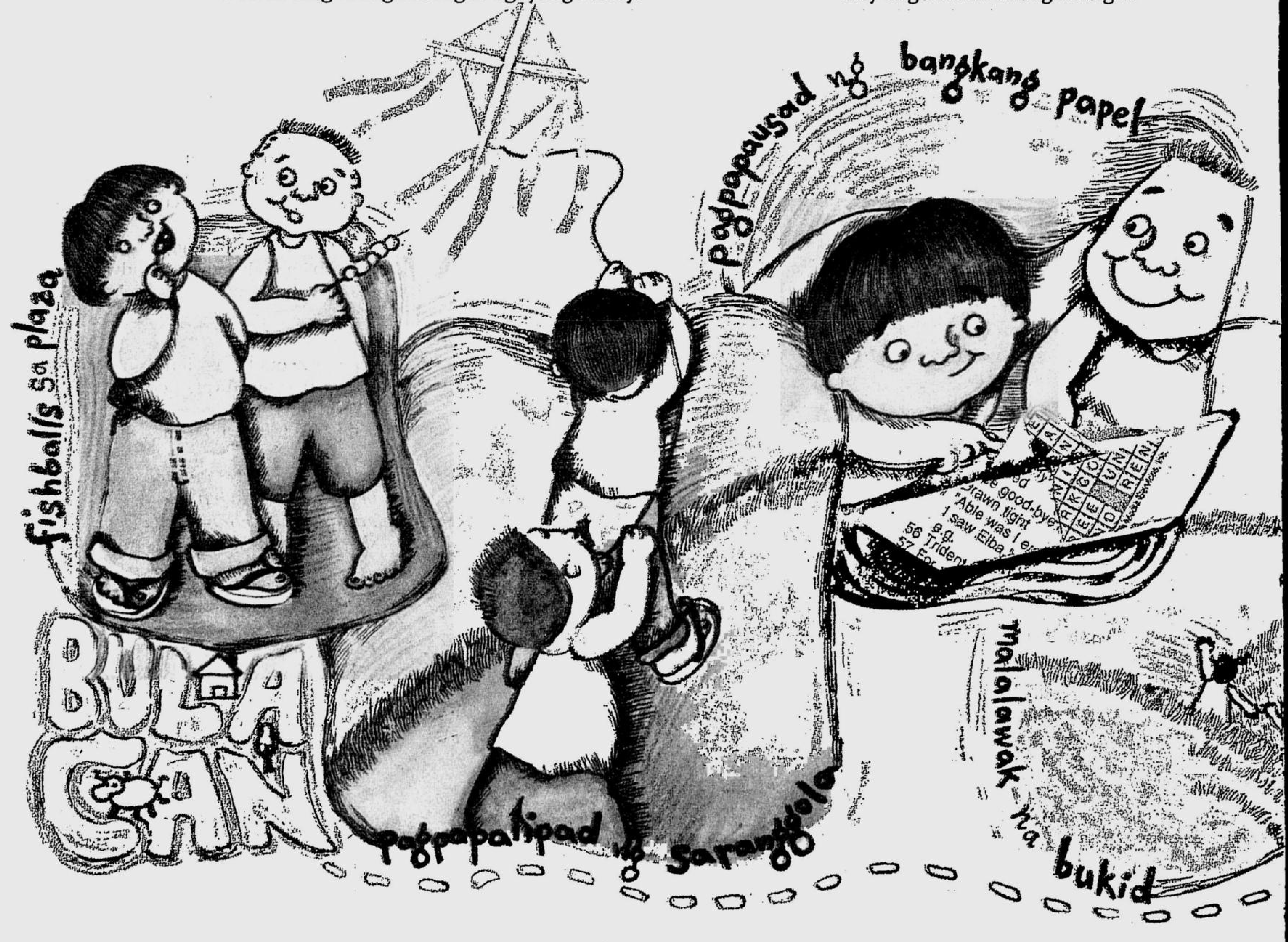
FOR or By KIDS

Kay Brian, Ang Kalarong Hin

NI GENARO R. GOJO CRUZ
GUHIT NI CHRISTINE SIPIN

Tulad mo,
hindi rin ako masaya
sa aming paglipat ng bahay.
Marami kasing bagay ang aking hahanapin;
ang pagbili natin ng *fishballs* sa plaza,
ang paggawa at pagpapalipad natin ng saranggola
na kung minsan ay nahihirapan tayong paliparin,
ang pagpapausad natin ng bangkang papel
sa tubig umaagos sa kanal galing sa bundok
ang pagliligo natin sa ulan
at pagtapat natin sa alulod ng aming bahay,
ang bukid na madalas nating paglaruan ng habulan.
Hindi mo rin pala makakalimutan
'nung nasugatan ako, akala ko nga hindi
na maampat ang pagdugo ng aking sugat sa tuhod.
Buti na lang at nagamot agad ng iyong Nanay.
Ikaw naman kasi ang tulin-tulin mong tumakbo.
Minsan nga, kinumbinsi ko si Nanay
na dalawin ka namin.
Pero ang sabi niya malayo daw
ang Bulacan sa Mindoro
at ang Mindoro sa Bulacan.
Tapos mahiluhin pa daw ako sa biyahe.
Kaya siguro matagal talagang hindi
ako makakabalik at makakadalaw
sa iyo at sa iyong Nanay.

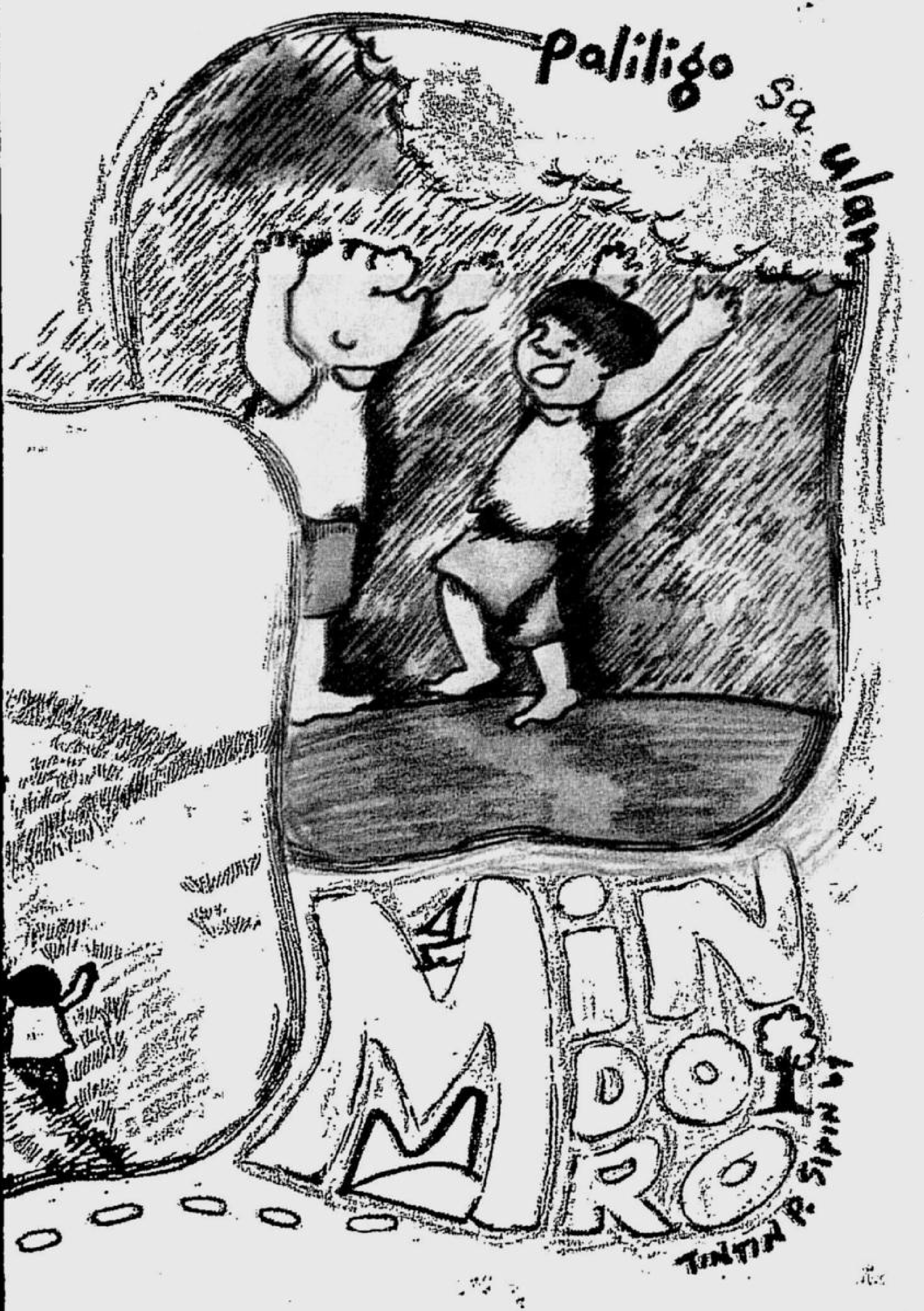
Sana maging masaya ka
dahil masaya naman kami dito
nina Nanay at Tatay.
Maayos din ang aming bagong tirahan.
May bago na rin akong kaibigan



di Ko Nais Iwan

Kapag nga nakakakita ako
ng *fishballs*,
ng saranggola,
ng bangkang papel,
ng malalawak ng bukid
at kapag umuulan,
ikaw ang aking naaalala.
Isang matalik na kaibigan
at kalarong hindi ko nais iwan.

*Si **Genaro** ay nag-aral sa Philippine Normal University. Naging fellow sa 2nd UST Writer's National Workshop na ginanap sa Baguio noong Abril 2001.*
*Si **Christine** ay isang product planner-designer. Ilan sa mga nalathala na niyang aklat ang "Pebbles in the Pond" (ni Maggie dela Riva), "Polka Dot Mommy" at "Dalawang Puyo" (ni Maria Teresa C. Suplico). Siya ay miyembro ng Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan.*



HA HA HA HA HA

Best Friend

By Nicole Tracey S. Wong
Illustrations by Steph Bravo

How happy I am
To find a best friend
Who promises to be a great person in and out
Until the very end

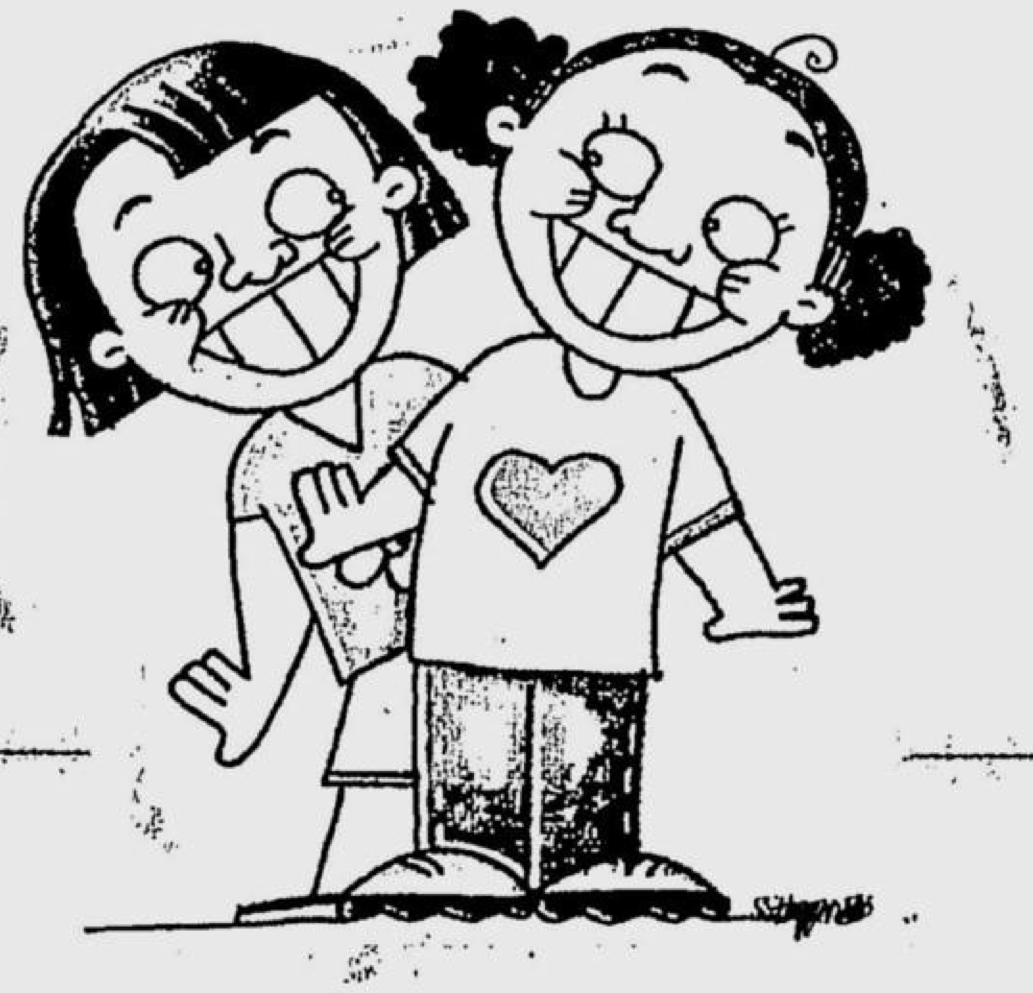
She comforts me when I'm lonely
Also when I'm sad
She tells me jokes to make me laugh
Whenever I'm feeling bad

She tells me encouraging words
Don't give up, don't stop trying
I'll catch you when you fall
And soothe you when you're crying

She helps me when I struggle
Listens to my problems, also gives me advice
Whenever I end up happy, I always say
She's so kind, she's so nice!

She truly brings out the best in me
Nothing can change her, she always does say that
And I believe in her
'Cause she's my best friend, no matter what.

***Nicole**, 11, studies at Immaculate Conception Academy in Greenhills, San Juan.*
***Steph** has a cat named Sammy and a dog she fondly calls Manny.*



A Writer in the Making

Eleven-year-old Noelle Filoteo has grand writing plans

By Mae Astrid Tobias

"MY FAMILY'S full of talented people," 11-year-old Noelle Filoteo explains. "My cousin Sarah Jessica sings and draws. My other cousin Joshue is very good in Math, unlike me. My older sister is the photographer in our school newspaper. And I love to write."

True enough, this young girl from Colegio de San Agustin is already a prolific writer. Aside from being a consistent honor student, Noelle is a member of the Young Writer's Club in school and has won first place in a school-sponsored essay writing contest.

"The stories I've written are actually very private," she confesses. "I don't show them to anybody else." Then she adds and rolls her eyes, "Except of course when my *ate* tinkers with the computer and reads something she's not supposed to read."

Sometimes she lets her friends read some of her stories. But most of her work she keeps. "When I grow up I'm going to send these to a publishing house," she beams.

Like any good writer, Noelle is also a voracious reader. Most of her stories are based on what she's read. She likes the Sweet Valley High series, the "Babysitters Club," the Harry Potter series and a comic book version of the "Noli Me Tangere."

She owns a modest book collection. Some of them she picked out herself. Whenever they would go the mall, her mother already expects Noelle be on the lookout for a book to add to her collection.

"My mom always has to remind me that I can only buy one book at a time," she laughs.

Even when she goes online, books are also in her mind. One of the sites she doesn't fail to visit is Amazon.com where she browses for books she would like to get someday.

Perhaps once Noelle begins publishing her stories, her own book will be available online as well.

IN BETWEEN PAGES. When not writing or reading, Noelle finds time to cuddle her pet toy.

BETOY JOHNSON

R U RRIFIC!

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're `Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free **Junior Inquirer T-shirt!**

Kid 'r'rrific

nomination form

I nominate: ____________________

Age: ________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

____
____
____
____
____
____
____

She/he lives at

____
____
____

and studies at

____

Her/his contact number is:

____

Sender's Name:

____

Sender's Age & School:

______, ____________________

Sender's Address:

____
____

Sender's Contact No.

____

Weird in Makati

Here's Marcus Nada: artistic director by day, doodler and children's book illustrator by night

By Mae Astrid Tobias

ART DIRECTOR AT WORK. Designing the look of a website is serious stuff. Here's Marcus at his office with some storyboards he's been working on.

DURING the daytime, 26-year-old Marcus Nada seems like the typical adult. He's got a pretty "serious" responsibility as art director of a web company and, just like some of other typical adults, he goes to work in one of those tall buildings in Makati. But when you look at his office cubicle, you'll immediately know he's not a regular grown-up at all.

Marcus has toys all over his computer. For example, there's Blue from "Blue's Clues," one of the hyenas from the movie "The Lion King," and the two characters from the hilarious and bizarre "Cow and Chicken." He also parks his cellphone on a rubber ducky soap dish.

And during the night, when most of you are snug in bed, Marcus spends his time doing something most typical grown-ups don't do: he doodles, sketches and paints scenes that will be part of children's books.

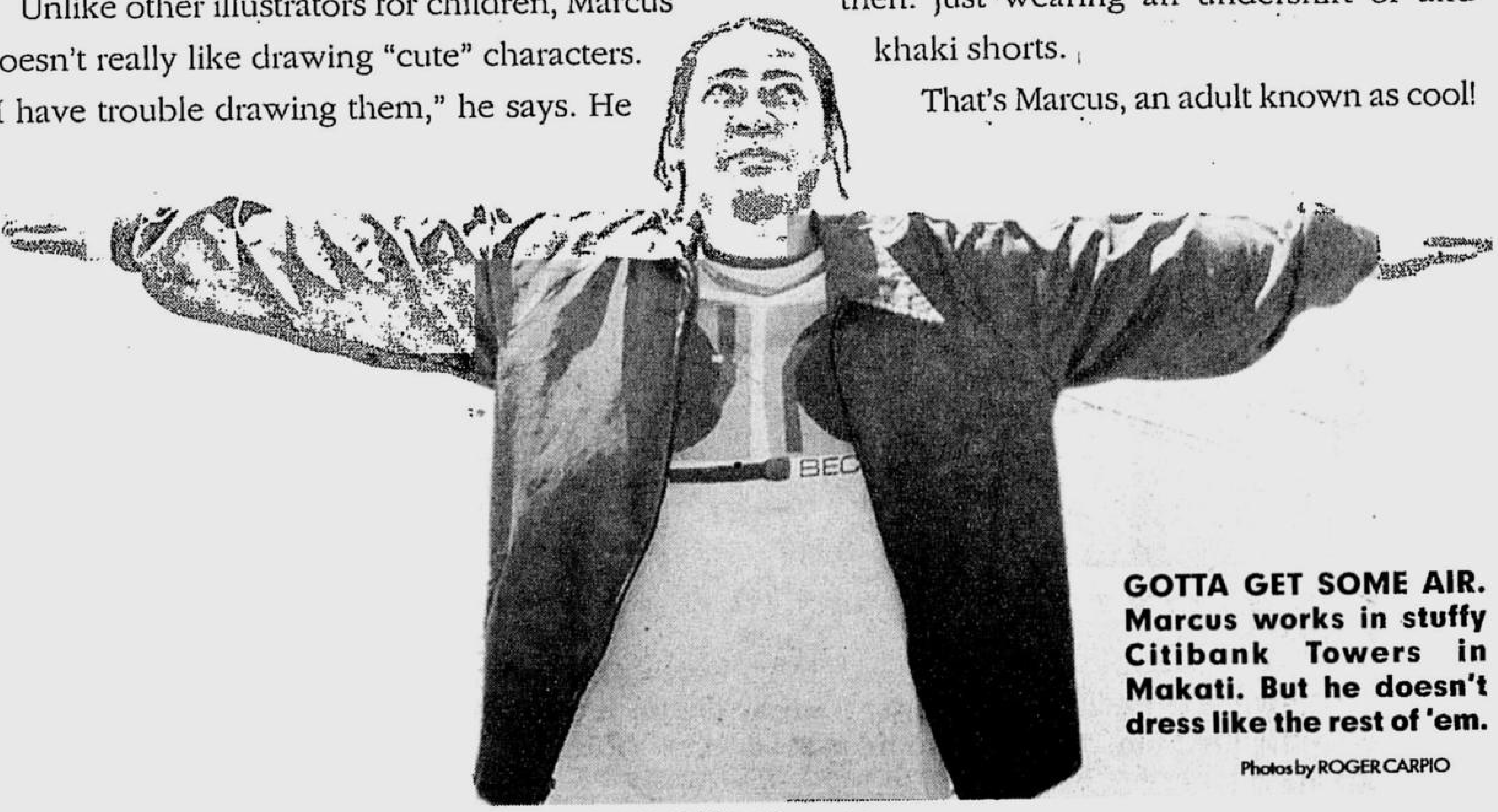
If you've read "Aray, Nasugatan Ako" by Luis Gatmaitan and "Si Pitong, Noong Panahon ng mga Hapon" by Augie Rivera, then you've seen Marcus' work. Marcus also illustrated for Carla Pacis' "A Sea of Stories" with other members of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan.

Unlike other illustrators for children, Marcus doesn't really like drawing "cute" characters. "I have trouble drawing them," he says. He likes them looking-odd and weird.

But don't think Marcus takes this illustrating work lightly. He likes to research on how his characters are supposed to look, no matter how weird.

For Pitong, he had to do research about the time when the Japanese had control over our country. "Somebody loaned me a book about the Japanese occupation," he says. "That's why Pitong looks how an ordinary kids looked back then: just wearing an undershirt or and khaki shorts.

That's Marcus, an adult known as cool!



GOTTA GET SOME AIR. Marcus works in stuffy Citibank Towers in Makati. But he doesn't dress like the rest of 'em.

Photos by ROGER CARPIO

Do you know a grown-up who

- ● is fun to be with
- ● has an exciting job
- ● keeps an amazing hobby
- ● is all of the above???

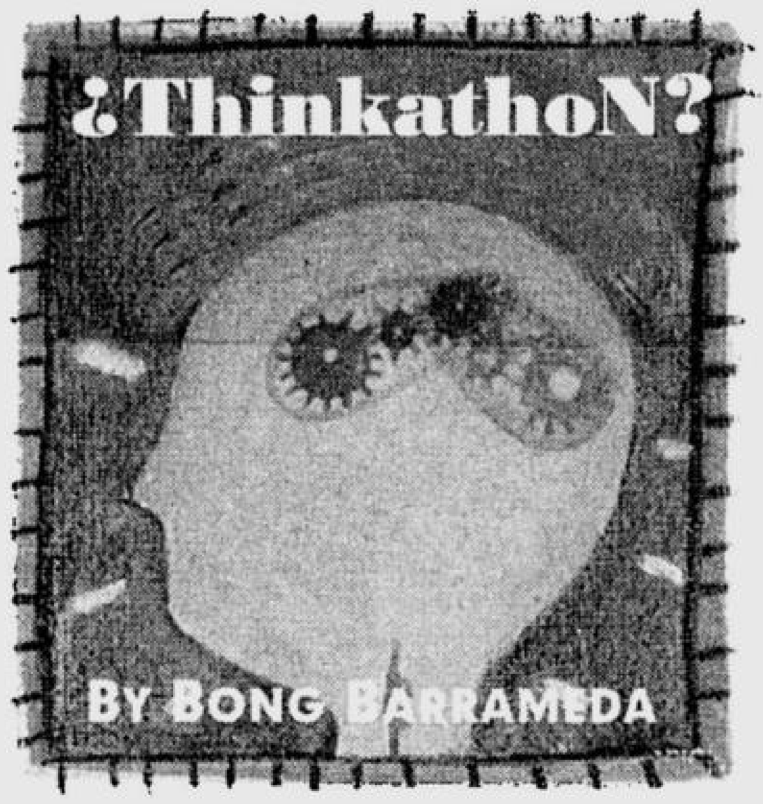
If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate ____________.
He/She is ____ years old and is my ____________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)____________;
2)____________;
3)____________;
4)____________;
and
5)____________.
My nominee lives at__________
____________.
Give him/her a call at________
____________ or send him/her an e-mail at____________.
By the way, Im____________.
I'm ______ years old.
My address is
____________.
You may call me at
____________.



Eco-Vocabulary

AS YOU know, kids like you can—and should—do a lot to help to protect and preserve our planet. Knowing some key words about the environment is a good start. Can you match the numbered definitions with the terms they refer to in the choices listed in the box at right?

1. The planned and wise use of water, forests and other natural resources so that they will not be wasted.
2. Using something more than once, either just the way it is, or treated and made into something else.
3. Contamination of air, water, or soil by materials that can injure health, the quality of life, or the working of ecosystems.
4. A community of living things in an area at a given time: the environment affects the growth of living things.
5. The cutting down of most of the trees from forested land, usually so that the land can be used for something besides a forest.
6. The average weather in a region of the world.
7. The disappearance of a type (species) of plant or animal from Earth.
8. Planting new trees where other trees have been cut down.
9. Water that flows in the spaces between soil particles and rocks—this supplies water for wells and springs.
10. The washing away or blowing away of topsoil; this can happen when trees and plants—which hold the soil in place and help reduce the force of the wind—are removed from the ground.
11. Anything that comes from once-living matter deep in the earth, such as coal, gas, and oil.
12. An increase in Earth's temperature due to a build-up of certain gases in the atmosphere.
13. Warming of Earth caused by certain gases that form a blanket in the atmosphere high over Earth.
14. A pile of food scraps and yard waste that is broken down by worms and tiny insects, which can be used to enrich the soil
15. The natural home of an animal or plant.

climate habitat
fossil fuel extinction
reforestation groundwater
global warming greenhouse
effect pollution
deforestation conservation
recycling compost
heap soil erosion
ecosystem

Answers

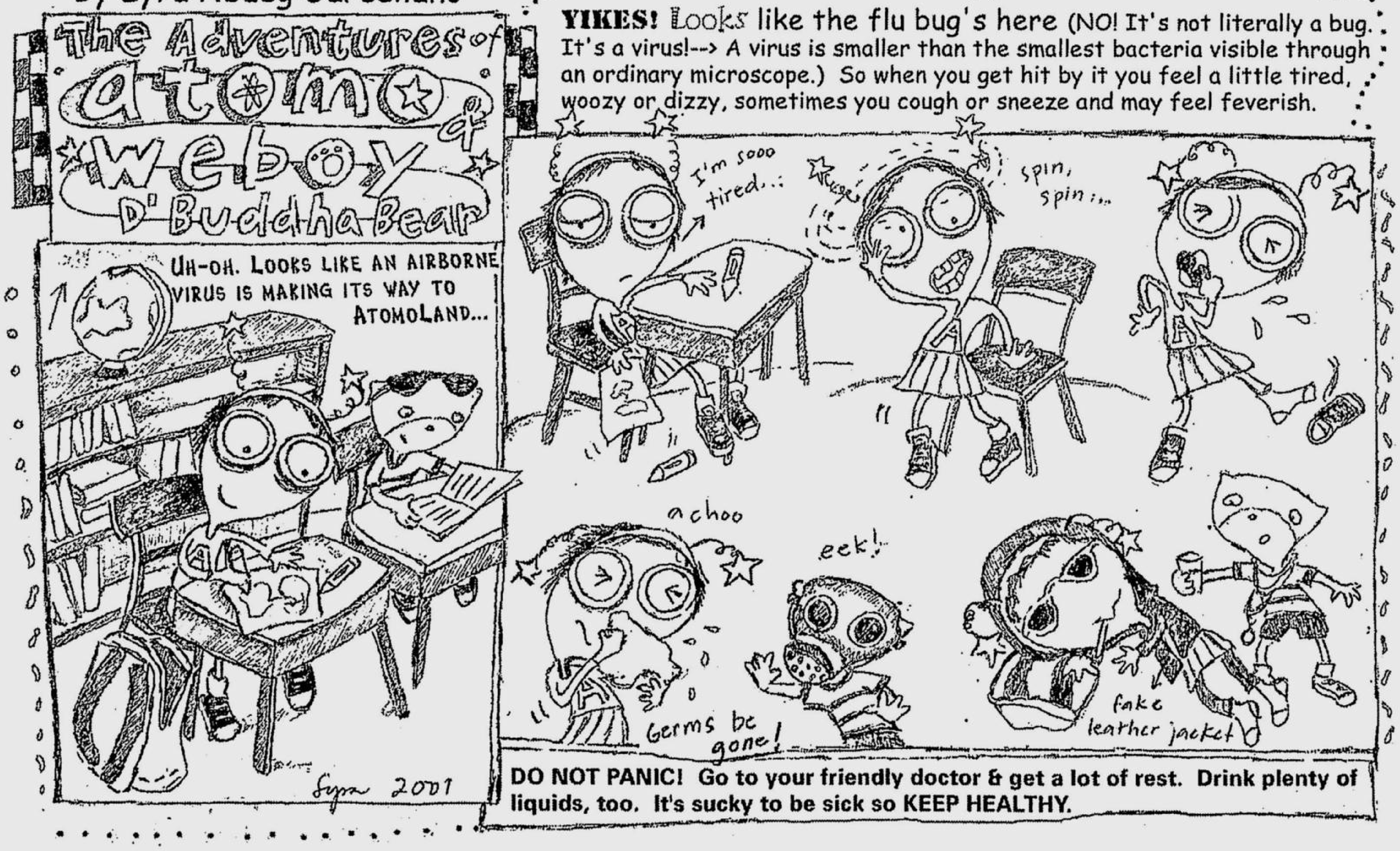
1. conservation 9. groundwater
2. recycling 10. erosion
3. pollution 11. fossil fuel
4. ecosystem 12. global warming
5. deforestation 13. greenhouse effect
6. climate
7. extinction 14. compost heap
8. reforestation 15. ecosystem

Ratings

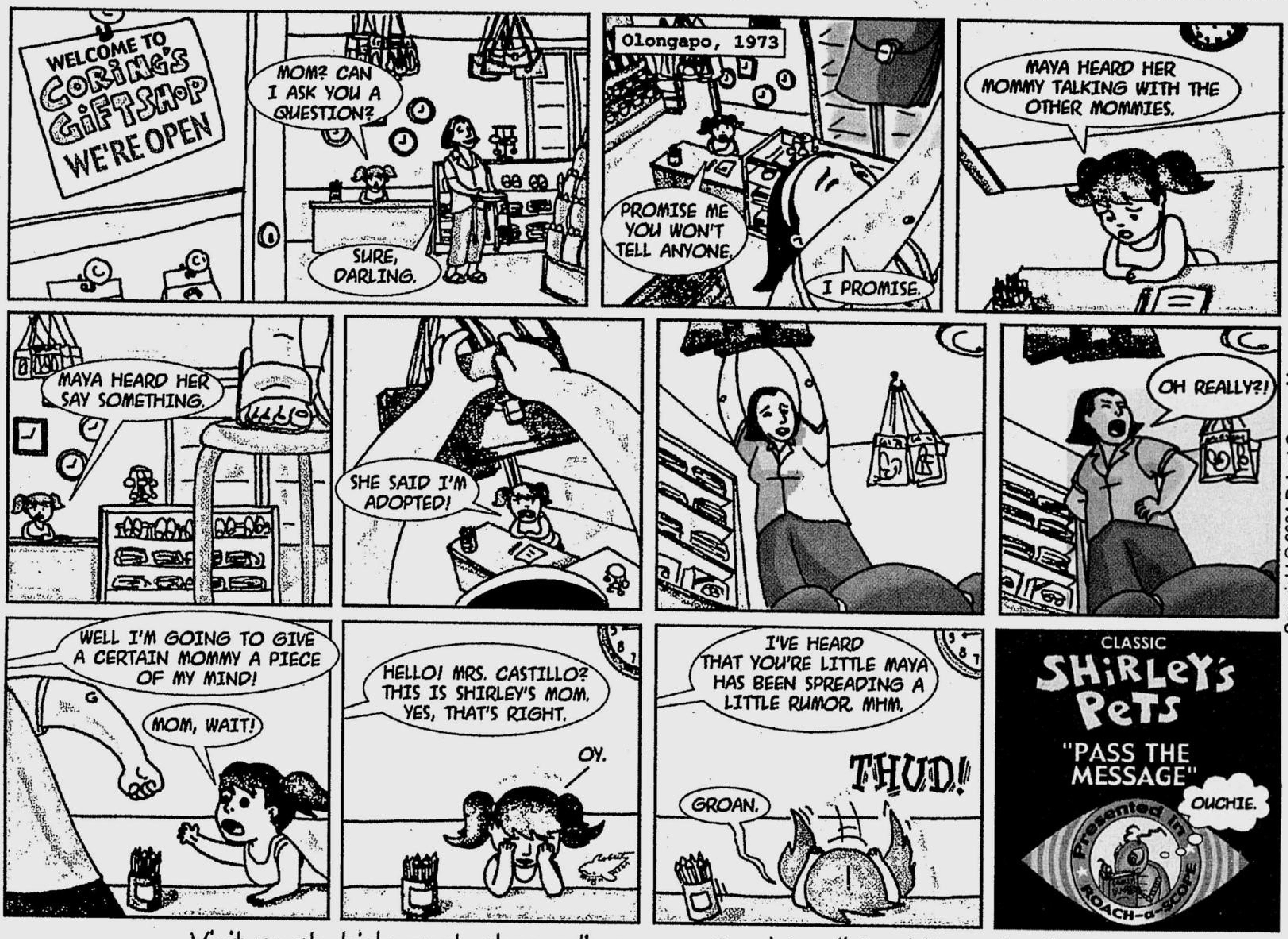
superbrain!	excellent!	good!
13 - 15	10 - 12	7 - 9

By Lyra Abueg Garcellano

YIKES! Looks like the flu bug's here (NO! It's not literally a bug. It's a virus!--> A virus is smaller than the smallest bacteria visible through an ordinary microscope.) So when you get hit by it you feel a little tired, woozy or dizzy, sometimes you cough or sneeze and may feel feverish.


The Adventures of atomo & weboy
D'Buddha Bear
UH-OH. LOOKS LIKE AN AIRBORNE VIRUS IS MAKING ITS WAY TO ATOMOLAND...
Lyra 2001
I'm sooo tired..:
spin, spin:..
achoo
eek!
Germs be gone!
fake leather jacket

DO NOT PANIC! Go to your friendly doctor & get a lot of rest. Drink plenty of liquids, too. It's sucky to be sick so KEEP HEALTHY.


WELCOME TO CORINE'S GIFTSHOP WE'RE OPEN
MOM? CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
SURE, DARLING.
Olongapo, 1973
PROMISE ME YOU WON'T TELL ANYONE.
I PROMISE.
MAYA HEARD HER MOMMY TALKING WITH THE OTHER MOMMIES.
MAYA HEARD HER SAY SOMETHING.
SHE SAID I'M ADOPTED!
OH REALLY?!
WELL I'M GOING TO GIVE A CERTAIN MOMMY A PIECE OF MY MIND!
MOM, WAIT!
HELLO! MRS. CASTILLO? THIS IS SHIRLEY'S MOM. YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
OY.
I'VE HEARD THAT YOU'RE LITTLE MAYA HAS BEEN SPREADING A LITTLE RUMOR. MHM.
THUD!
GROAN.
CLASSIC
SHIRLEY'S PETS
"PASS THE MESSAGE"
OUCHIE.
Presented in ROACH-a-SCOPE

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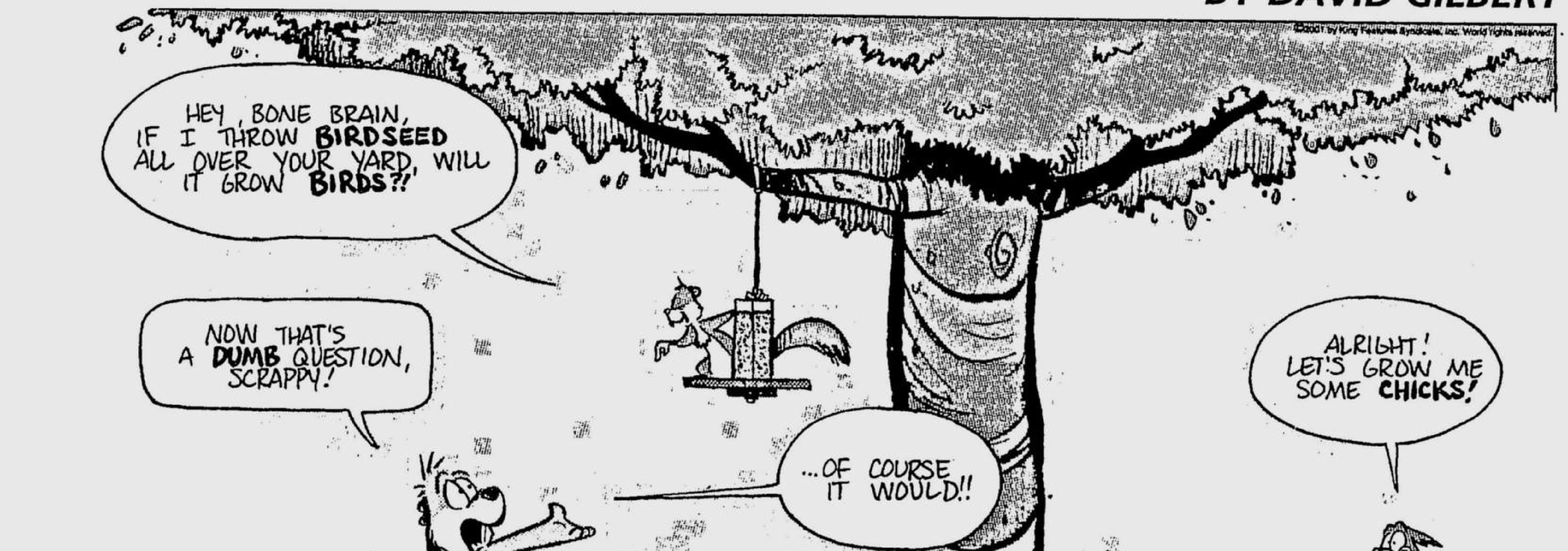
BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT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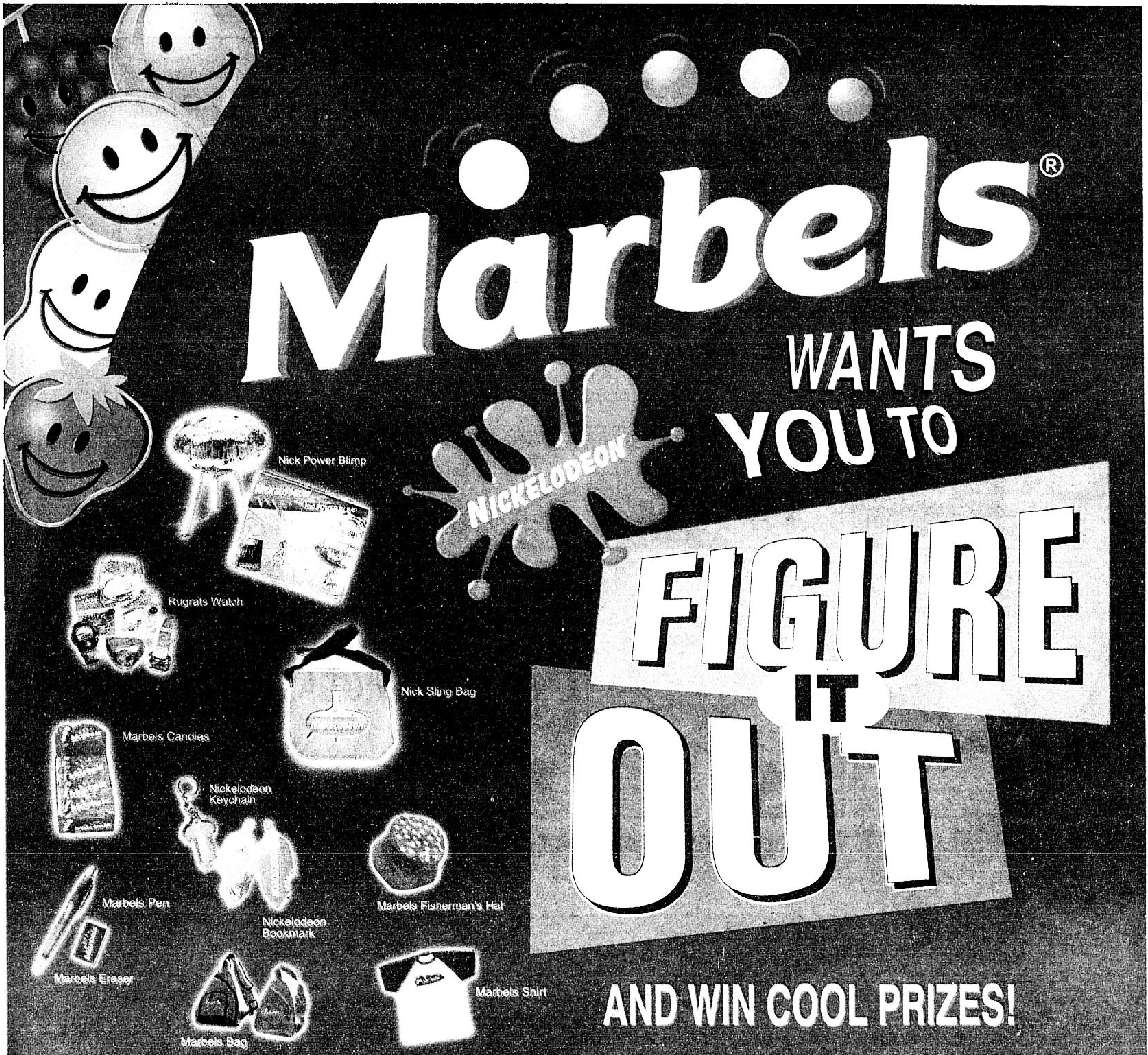
HEY, BONE BRAIN, IF I THROW BIRDSEED ALL OVER YOUR YARD, WILL IT GROW BIRDS?!
NOW THAT'S A DUMB QUESTION, SCRAPPY!
...OF COURSE IT WOULD!!
ALRIGHT! LET'S GROW ME SOME CHICKS!
8-19


Marbels®
WANTS YOU TO
NICKELODEON
FIGURE IT OUT
AND WIN COOL PRIZES!
Nick Power Blimp
Rugrats Watch
Nick Sling Bag
Marbels Candies
Nickelodeon Keychain
Marbels Pen
Nickelodeon Bookmark
Marbels Fisherman's Hat
Marbels Eraser
Marbels Bag
Marbels Shirt

MARBELS WANTS YOU TO FIGURE IT OUT is a nationwide contest open to kids **age 6 to 14 years.**

All you have to do is watch Nickelodeon and answer the Figure It Out question:
"Who is the host of Nickelodeon's Figure It Out?"
a. Summer Sanders
b. Angelica Pickles
c. Helga

"Figure out" the correct answer from the choices given, write it on a piece of paper together with your **name, age, address and telephone number**. Enclose **2 empty wrappers of Marbels** and send it to:

MARBELS WANTS YOU TO FIGURE IT OUT CONTEST
PO Box 12500 Ortigas Center Post Office, Pasig City
or
Van Melle (Phils.), Inc.
16th Floor Octagon Centre, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Remember kids, Marbels wrappers must be in good condition, meaning 3/4 of it must be intact to qualify as an entry.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0715 series of 2001.

***3 Grand Prize winners** will each win:*
- Nick Power Blimp
- Rugrats Watch
- Nick Sling Bag
- Marbels Pen
- Marbels Shirt
- Marbels Eraser
- Marbels Fisherman's Hat
- Marbels Candies

***10 Runners-up** will get:*
- Marbels Bag
- Marbels Pen
- Marbels Eraser
- Marbels Shirt
- Marbels Candies

***1,000 other winners** will get:*
- Nickelodeon Keychain
- Nickelodeon Bookmarks

Winners will be notified via registered mail or telephone.

Hurry! Deadline for submission of entries is on **October 21, 2001**.

Marbels Wants You To Figure It Out Contest is brought to you by Nickelodeon - the TV channel for kids and Marbels Candies - Only In The Marbels World.